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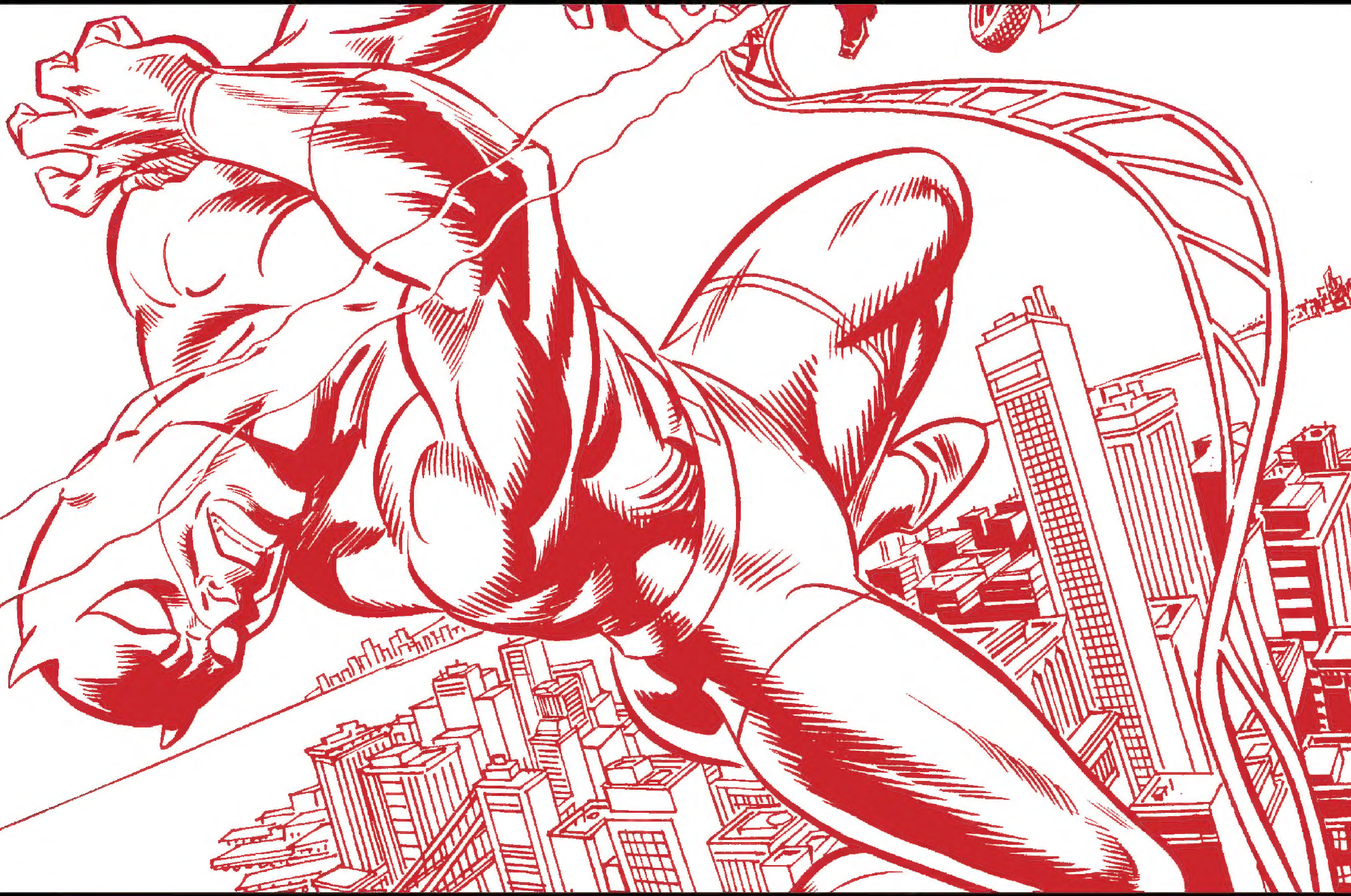
EPIC COLLECTION

HERE COMES...
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

A WOMAN CALLED WIDOW

THOMAS • CONWAY • COLAN

EPIC COLLECTION



DAREDEVIL

A WOMAN CALLED WIDOW

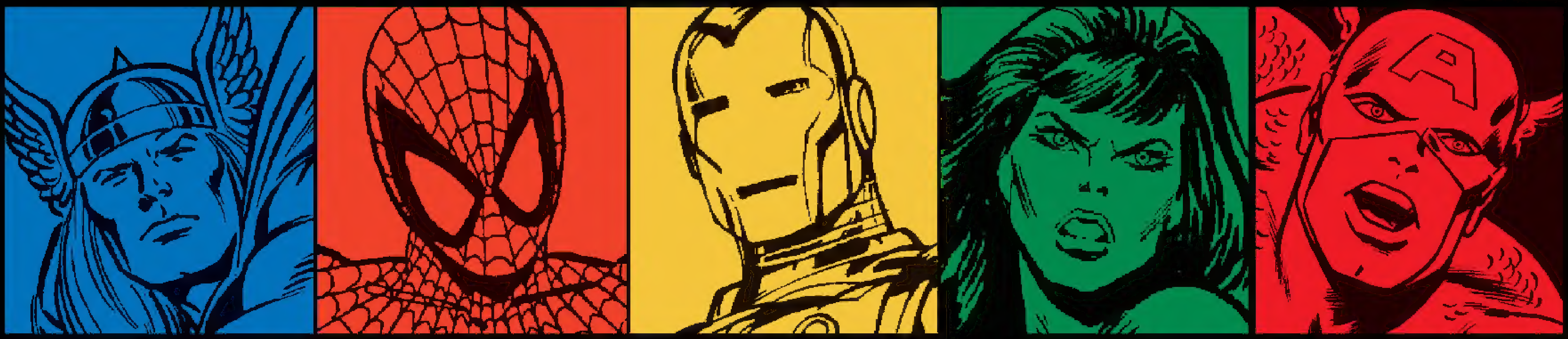
VOLUME 4

1970-1972

DAREDEVIL #64-86 AND IRON MAN #35-36

EPIC COLLECTION

The Epic Collections feature the best characters and stories from Marvel's vast history. Volumes are not published in chronological order — so start your collection today with this edition!



DAREDEVIL

A WOMAN CALLED WIDOW

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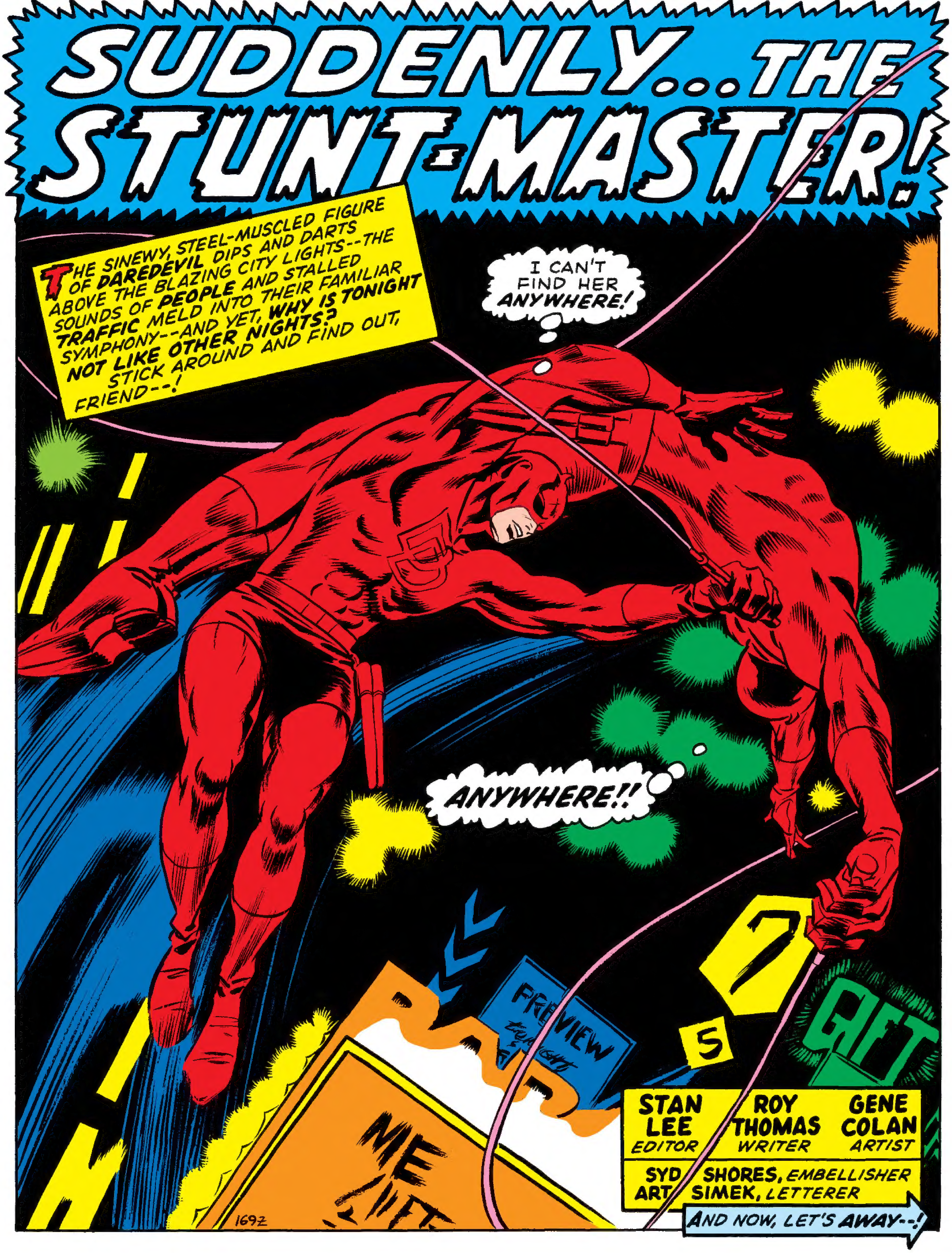
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
64
MAY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
YOU LOST THE GIRL YOU LOVE-- BUT YOU FOUND... THE STUNT-MASTER!
YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD, D.D.!
DAILY MIRROR
DAREDEVIL IN L.A.

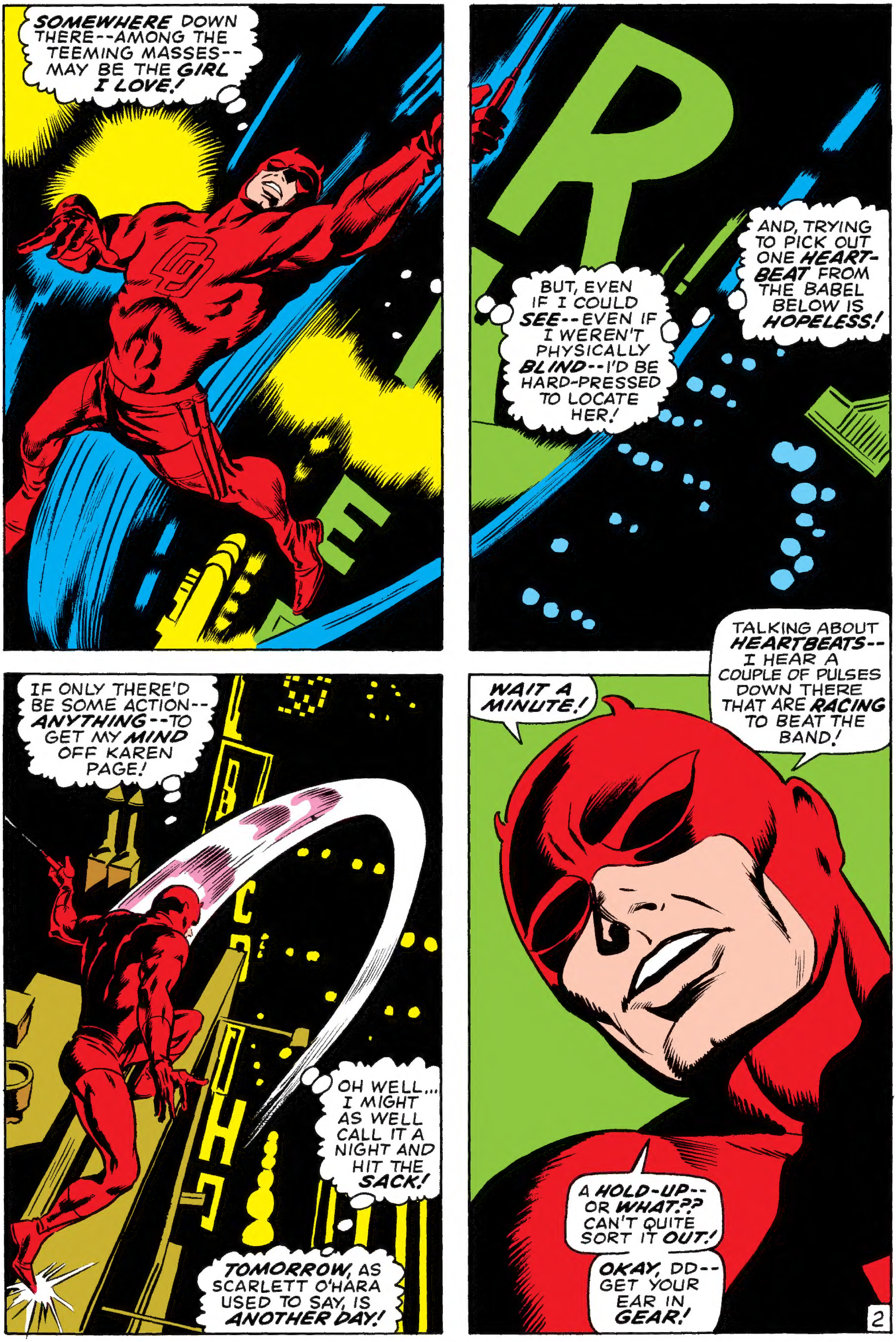
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

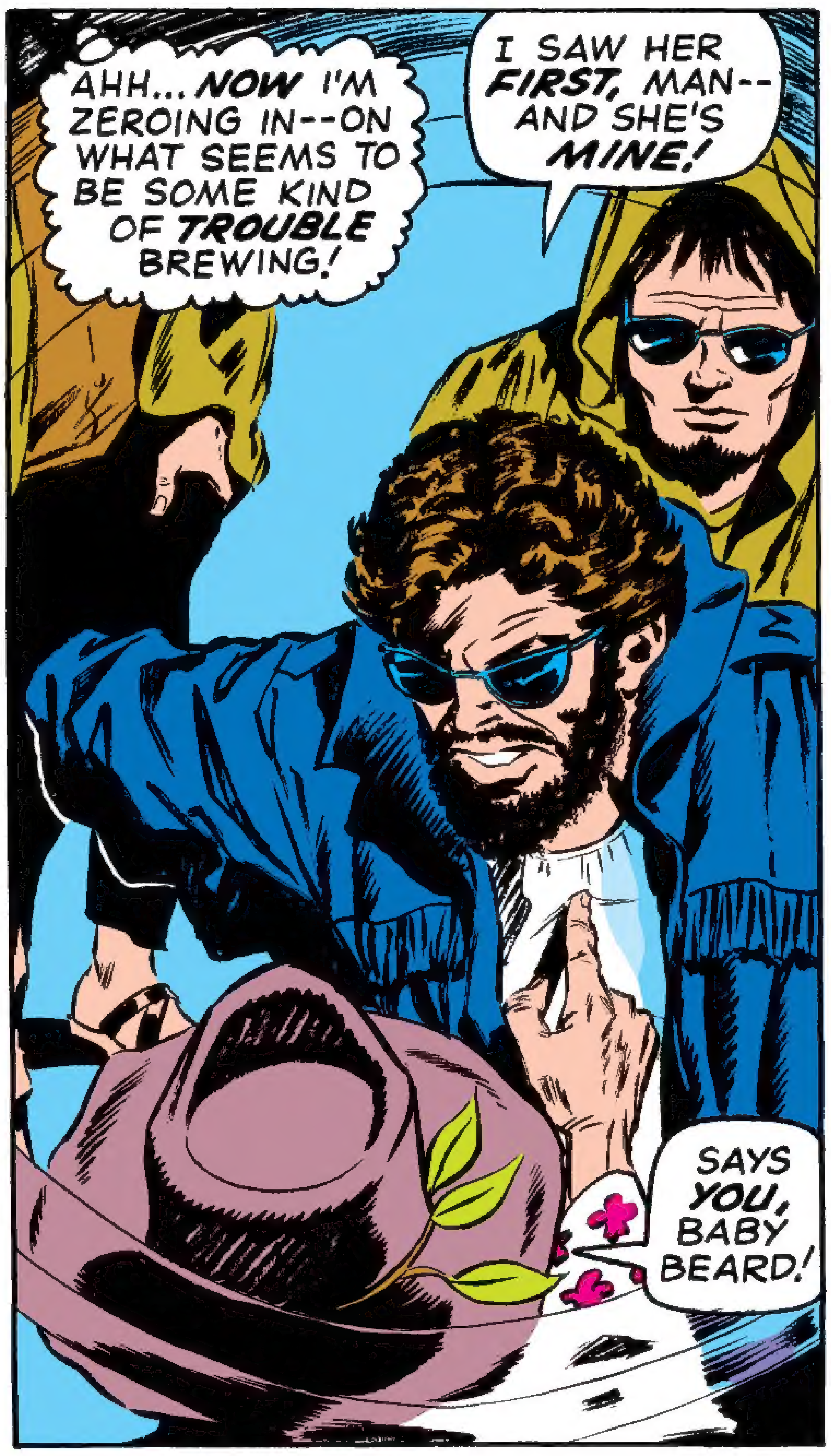
SUDDENLY... THE STUNT-MASTER!

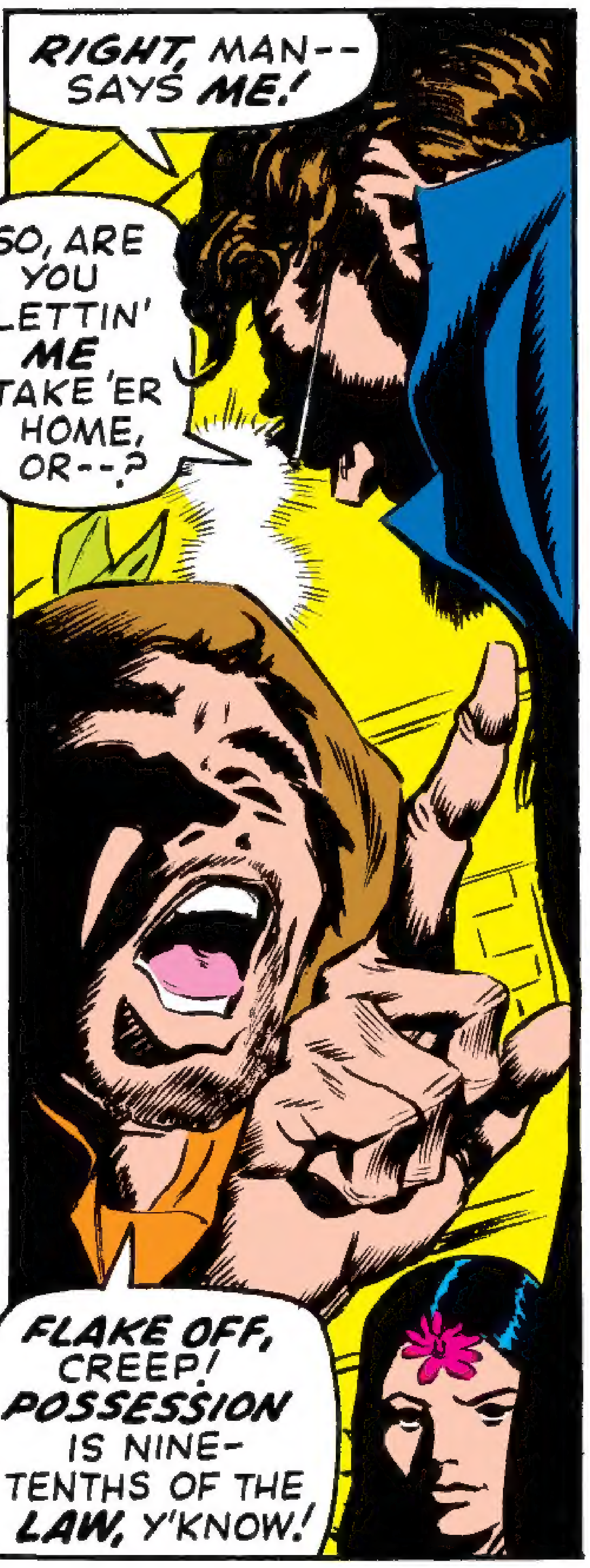

THE SINEWY, STEEL-MUSCLED FIGURE OF DAREDEVIL DIPS AND DARTS ABOVE THE BLAZING CITY LIGHTS--THE SOUNDS OF PEOPLE AND STALLED TRAFFIC MELD INTO THEIR FAMILIAR SYMPHONY--AND YET, WHY IS TONIGHT NOT LIKE OTHER NIGHTS? STICK AROUND AND FIND OUT, FRIEND--!
I CAN'T FIND HER ANYWHERE!
ANYWHERE!!
PREVIEW
7
5
GIFT
ME
169Z

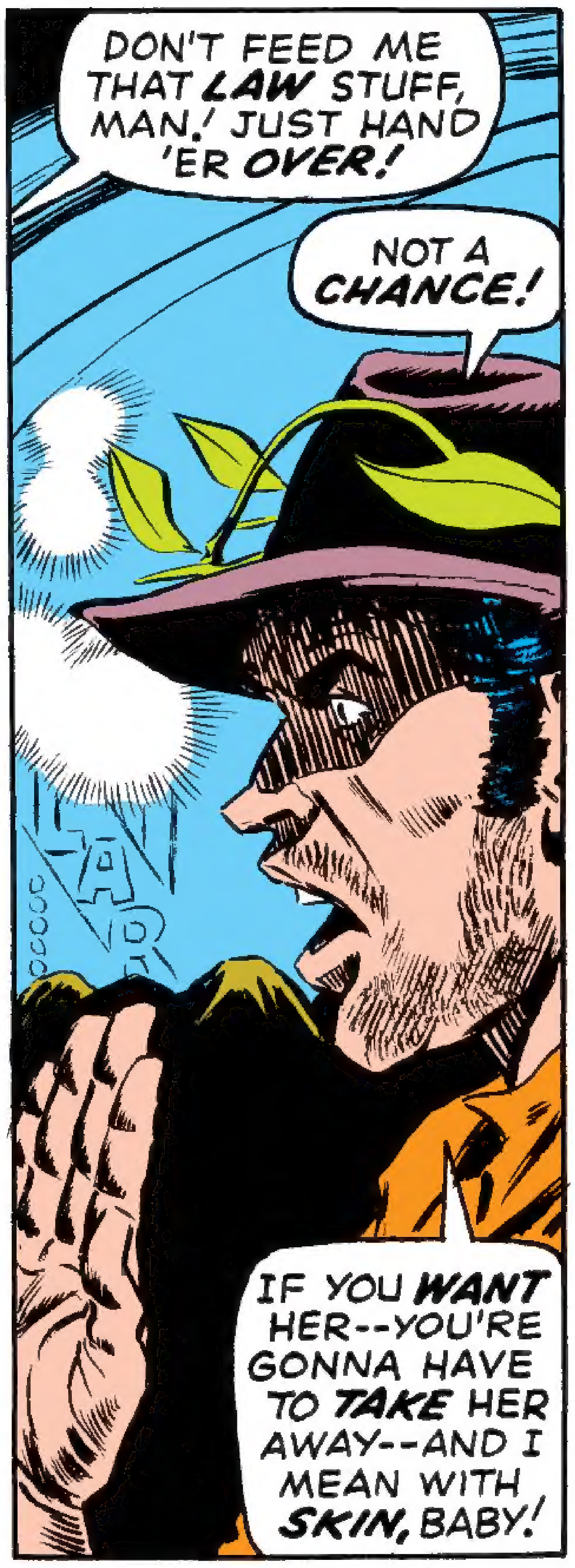
STAN LEE, *EDITOR* — **ROY THOMAS**, *WRITER* — **GENE COLAN**, *ARTIST*
SYD SHORES, *EMBELLISHER*
ART SIMEK, *LETTERER*

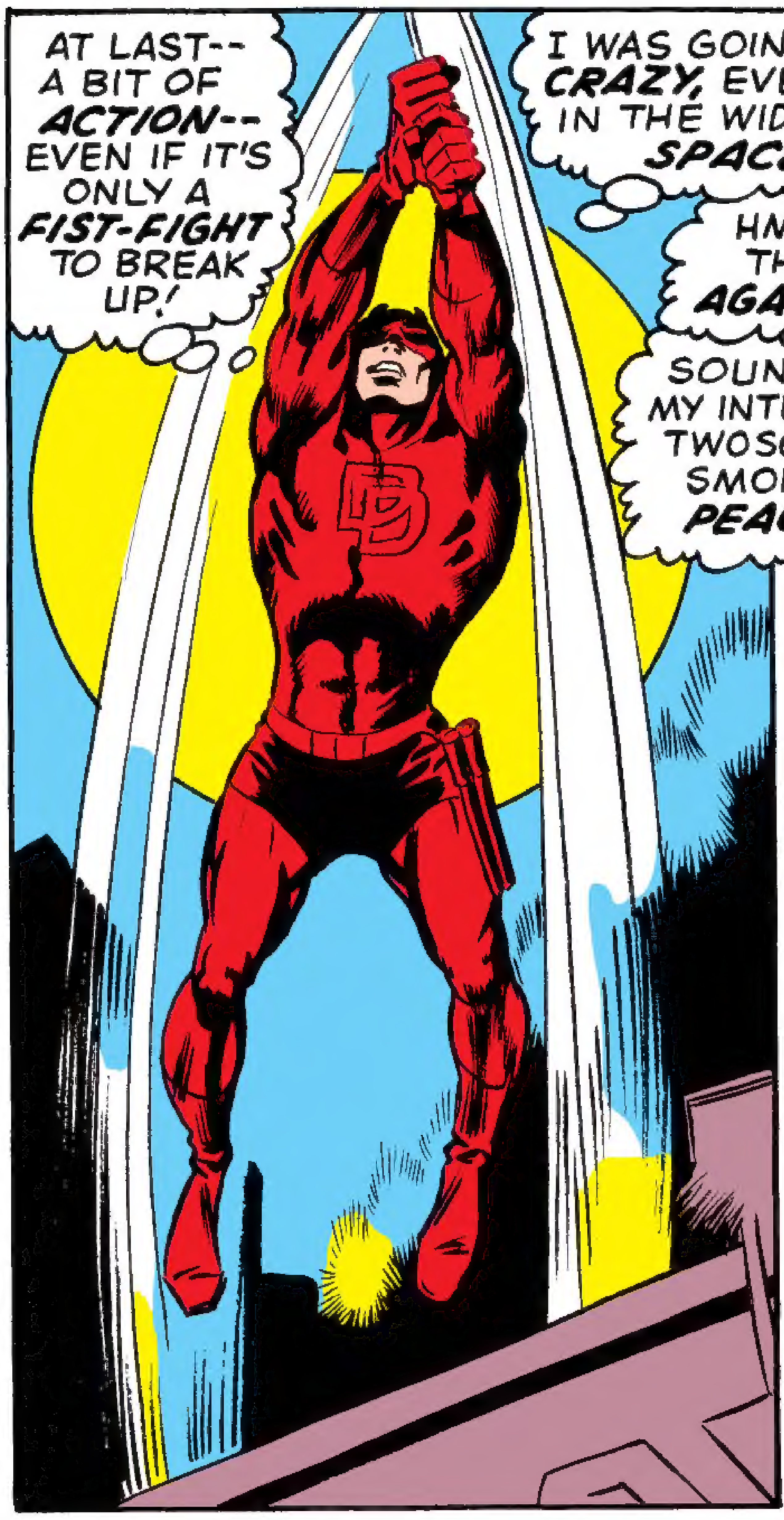
AND NOW, LET'S AWAY--!

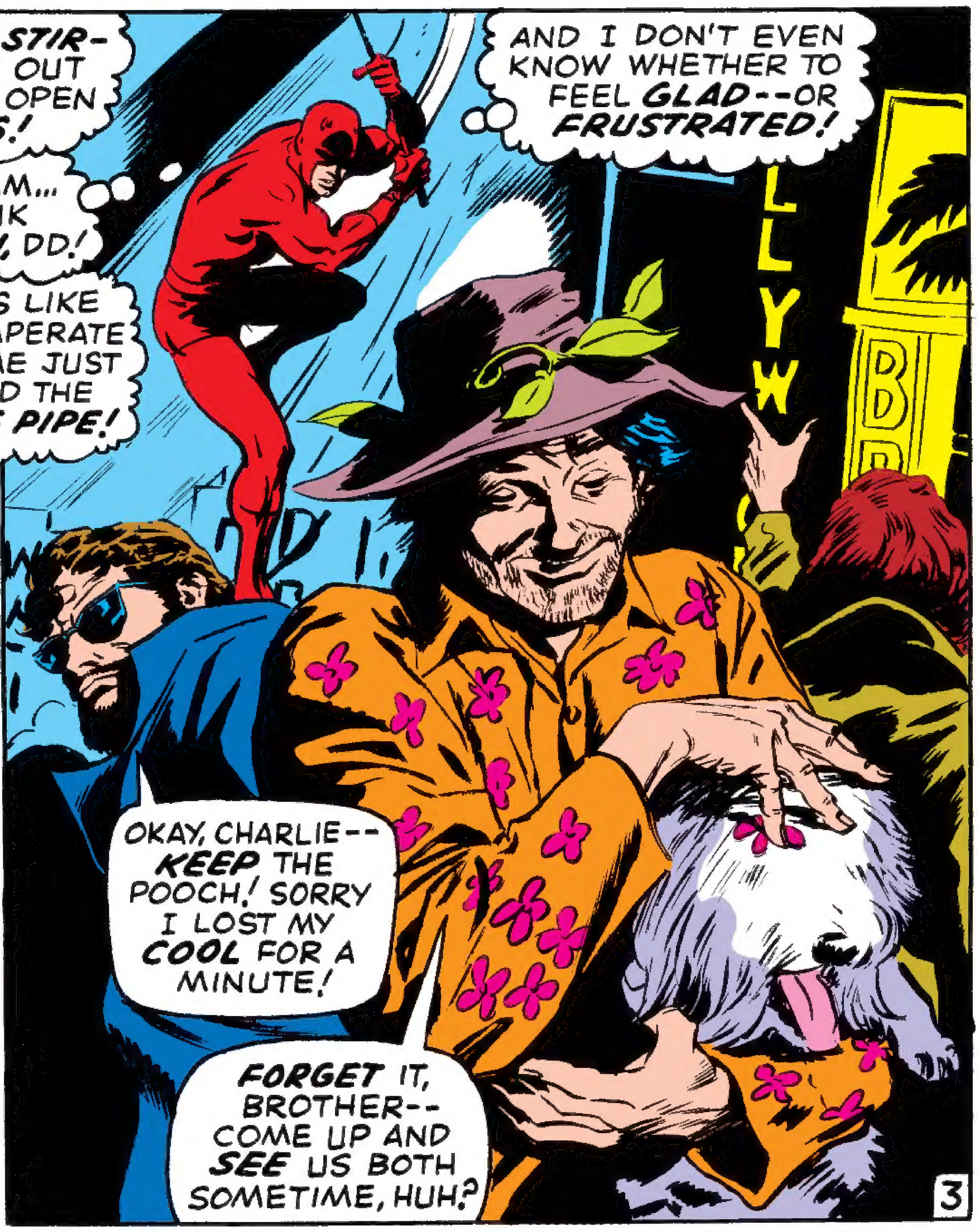

SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE--AMONG THE TEEMING MASSES--MAY BE THE GIRL I LOVE!
BUT, EVEN IF I COULD SEE--EVEN IF I WEREN'T PHYSICALLY BLIND--I'D BE HARD-PRESSED TO LOCATE HER!
AND, TRYING TO PICK OUT ONE HEARTBEAT FROM THE BABEL BELOW IS HOPELESS!
IF ONLY THERE'D BE SOME ACTION--ANYTHING--TO GET MY MIND OFF KAREN PAGE!
OH WELL... I MIGHT AS WELL CALL IT A NIGHT AND HIT THE SACK!
TOMORROW, AS SCARLETT O'HARA USED TO SAY, IS ANOTHER DAY!
WAIT A MINUTE!
TALKING ABOUT HEARTBEATS--I HEAR A COUPLE OF PULSES DOWN THERE THAT ARE RACING TO BEAT THE BAND!
A HOLD-UP--OR WHAT?? CAN'T QUITE SORT IT OUT!
OKAY, DD--GET YOUR EAR IN GEAR!

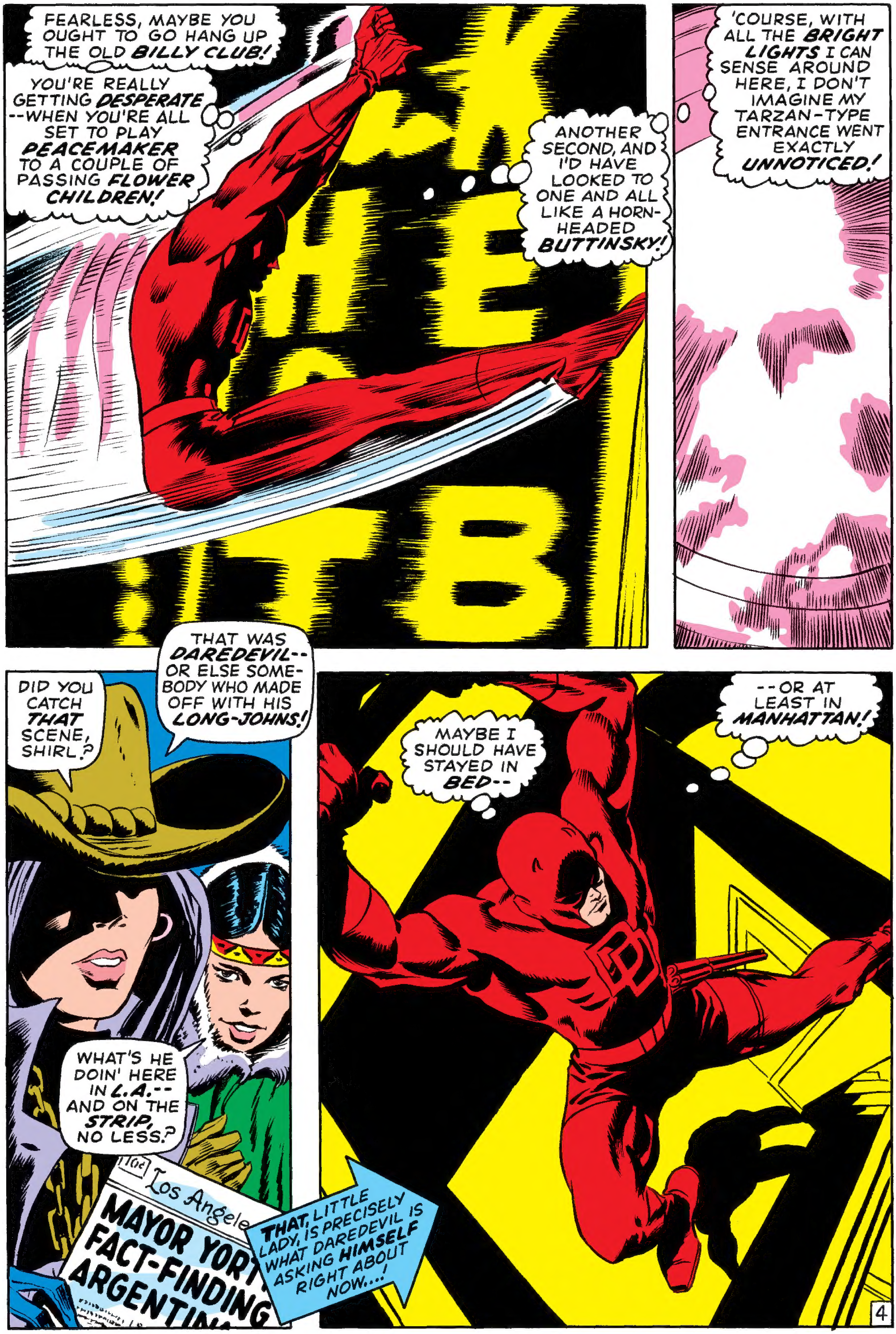

AHH... **NOW** I'M ZEROING IN--ON WHAT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF **TROUBLE** BREWING!
I SAW HER **FIRST,** MAN--AND SHE'S **MINE!**
SAYS **YOU,** BABY BEARD!

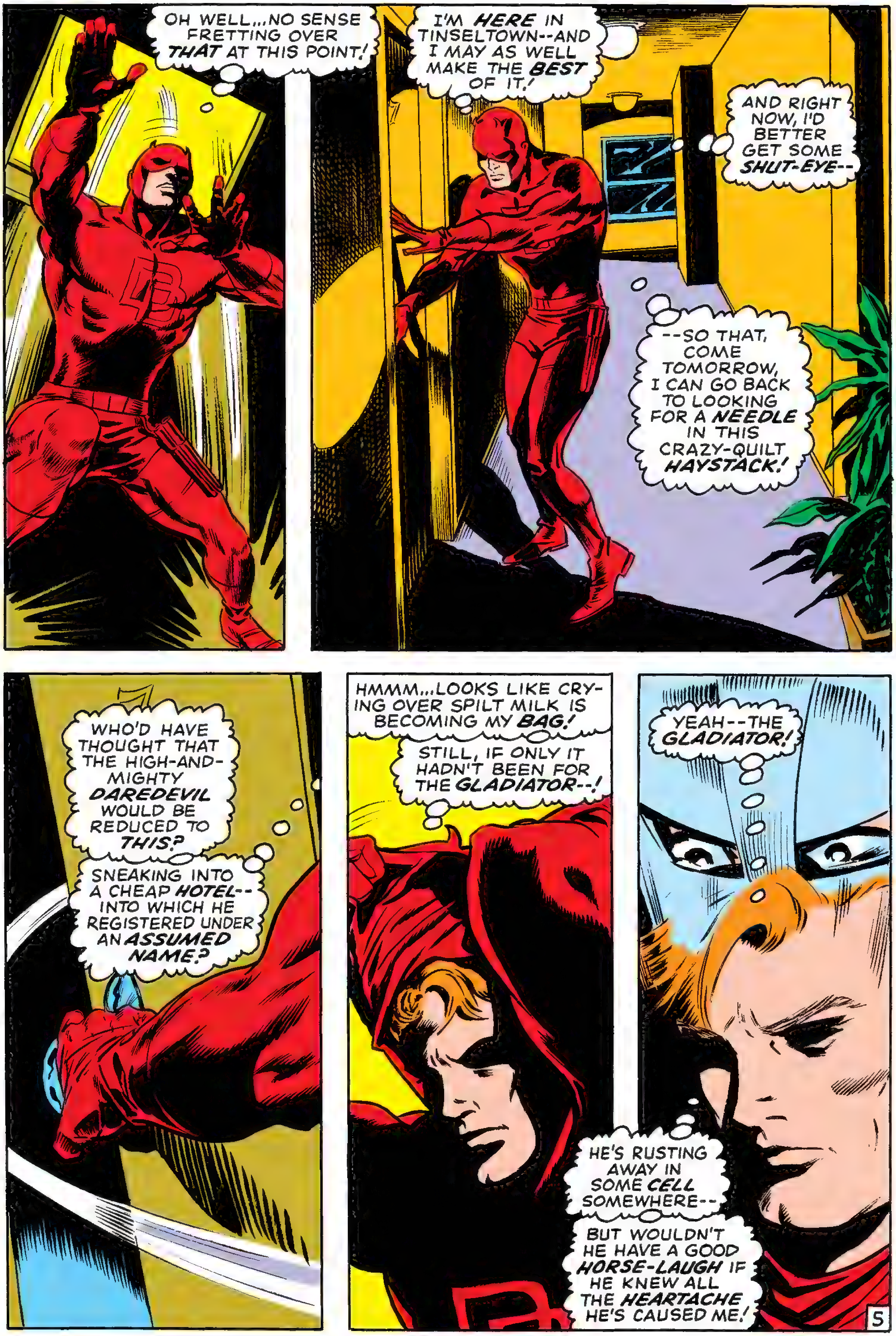

RIGHT, MAN--SAYS **ME!**
SO, ARE YOU LETTIN' **ME** TAKE 'ER HOME, OR--?
FLAKE OFF, CREEP! **POSSESSION** IS NINE-TENTHS OF THE **LAW,** Y'KNOW!

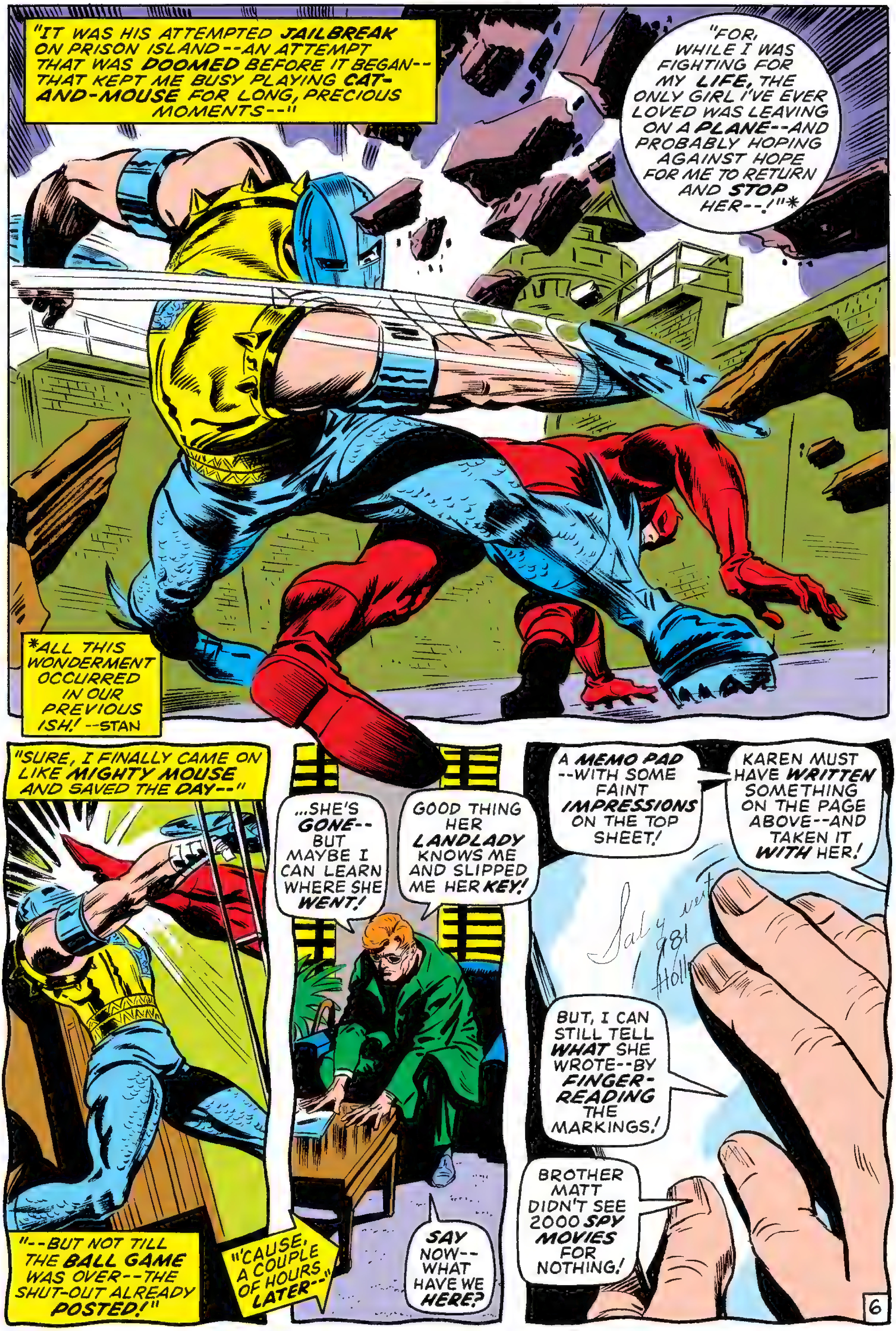

DON'T FEED ME THAT **LAW** STUFF, MAN! JUST HAND 'ER **OVER!**
NOT A **CHANCE!**
IF YOU **WANT** HER--YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO **TAKE** HER AWAY--AND I MEAN WITH **SKIN,** BABY!

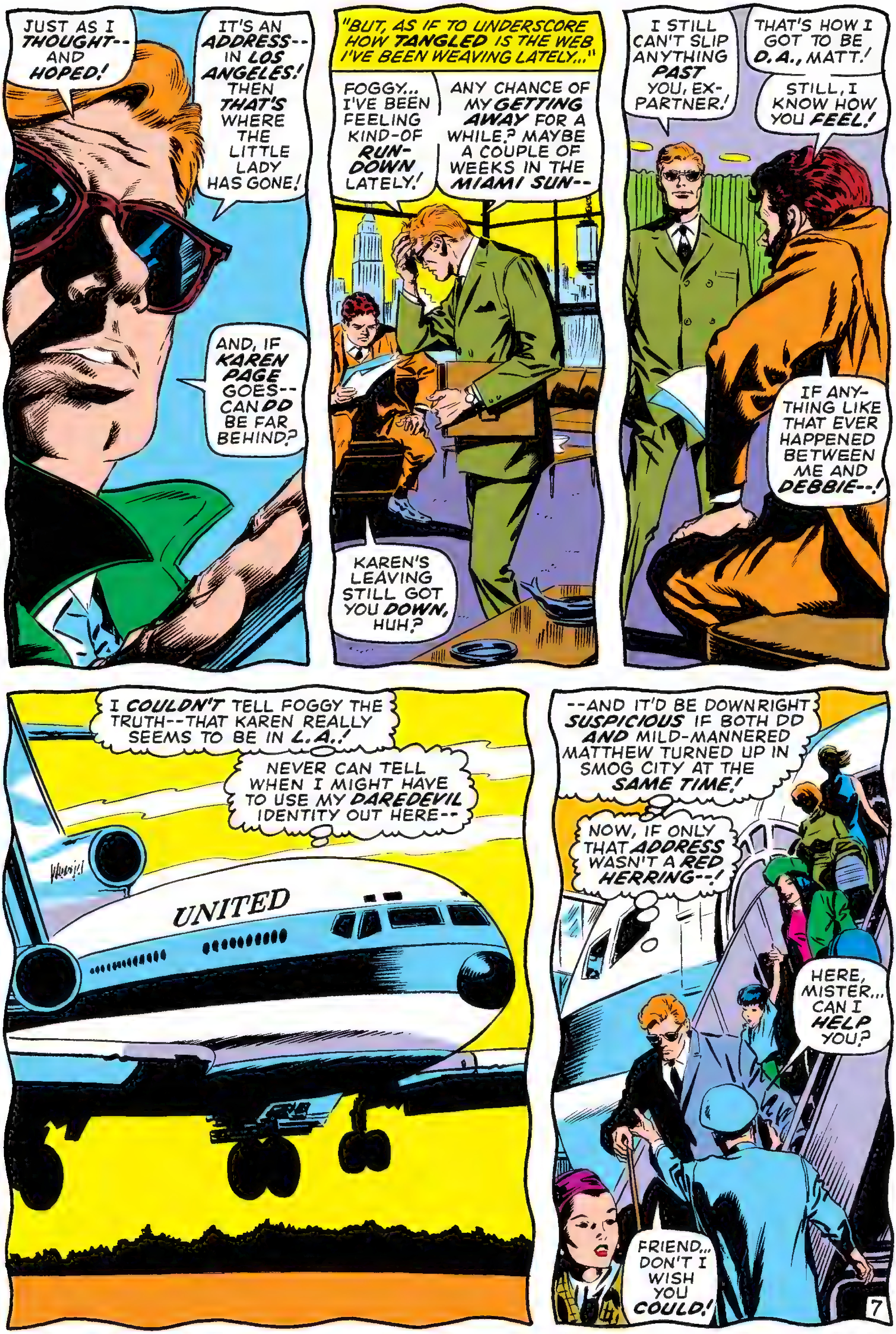

AT LAST--A BIT OF **ACTION**--EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A **FIST-FIGHT** TO BREAK UP!
I WAS GOING **STIR-CRAZY,** EVEN OUT IN THE WIDE OPEN **SPACES!**

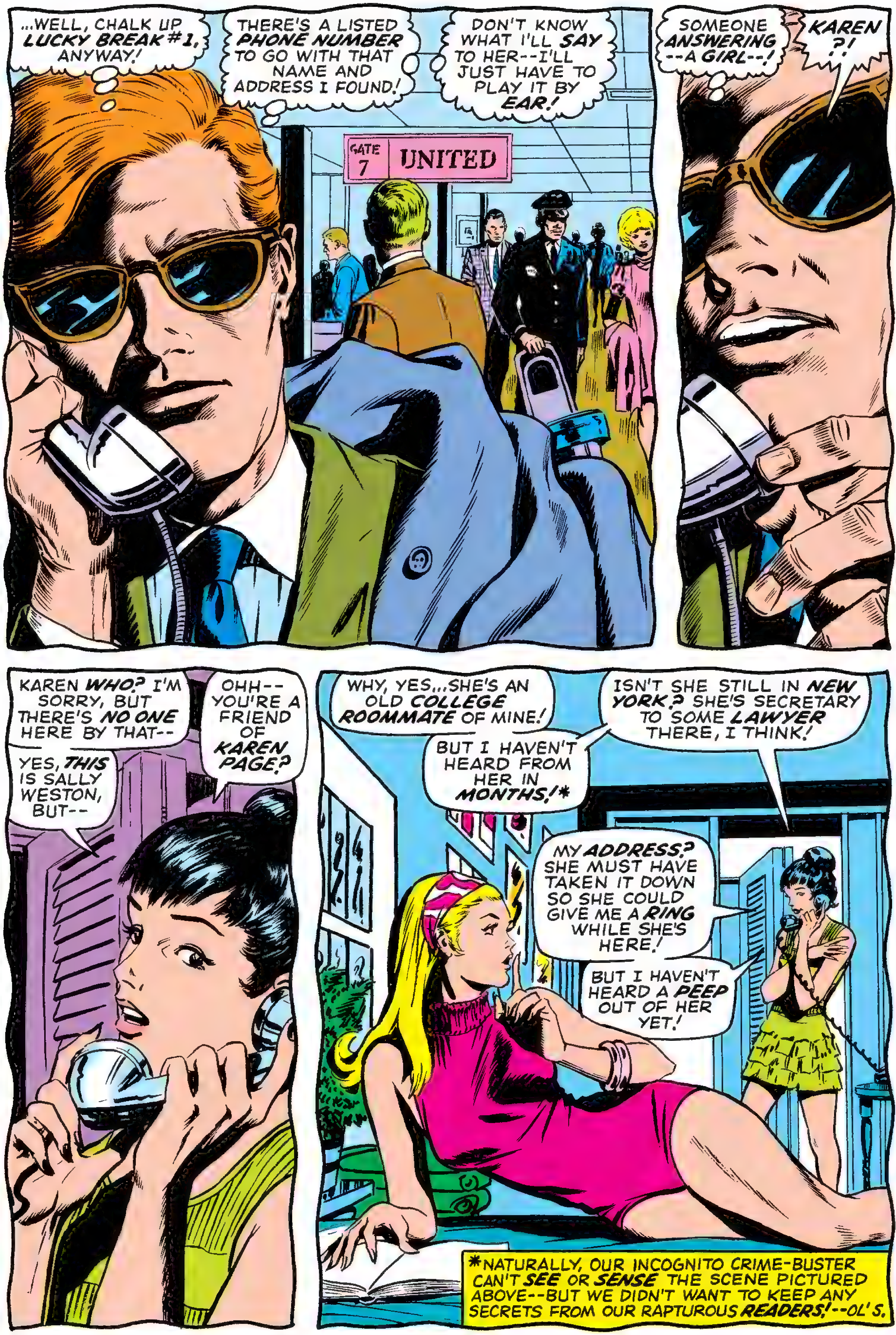

HMMM... THINK **AGAIN,** DD!
SOUNDS LIKE MY INTEMPERATE TWOSOME JUST SMOKED THE **PEACE PIPE!**
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER TO FEEL **GLAD**--OR **FRUSTRATED!**
OKAY, CHARLIE--**KEEP** THE POOCH! SORRY I LOST MY **COOL** FOR A MINUTE!
FORGET IT, BROTHER--COME UP AND **SEE** US BOTH SOMETIME, HUH?

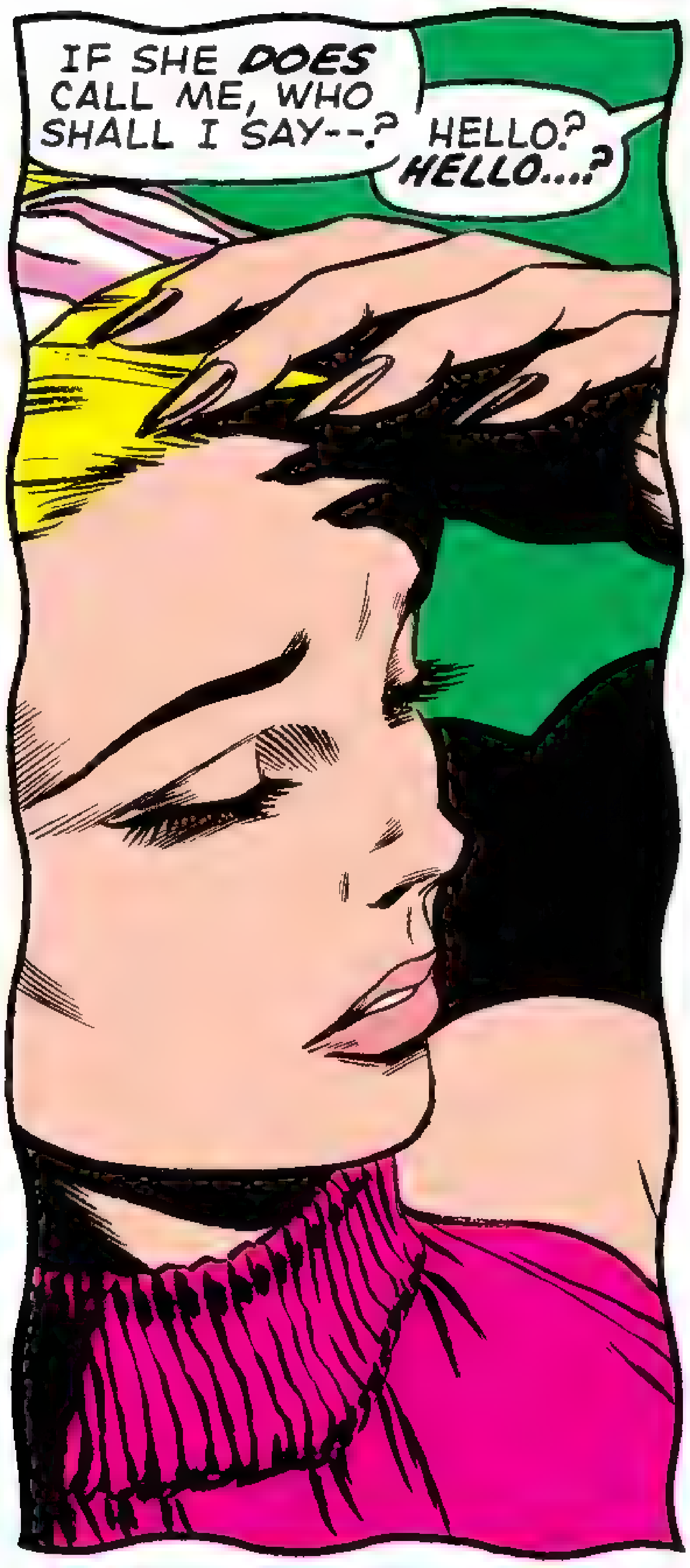

FEARLESS, MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO GO HANG UP THE OLD **BILLY CLUB!**
YOU'RE REALLY GETTING **DESPERATE** --WHEN YOU'RE ALL SET TO PLAY **PEACEMAKER** TO A COUPLE OF PASSING **FLOWER CHILDREN!**
ANOTHER SECOND, AND I'D HAVE LOOKED TO ONE AND ALL LIKE A HORN-HEADED **BUTTINSKY!**
'COURSE, WITH ALL THE **BRIGHT LIGHTS** I CAN SENSE AROUND HERE, I DON'T IMAGINE MY TARZAN-TYPE ENTRANCE WENT EXACTLY **UNNOTICED!**
DID YOU CATCH **THAT** SCENE, SHIRL.?
THAT WAS **DAREDEVIL**-- OR ELSE SOMEBODY WHO MADE OFF WITH HIS **LONG-JOHNS!**
WHAT'S HE DOIN' HERE IN **L.A.**-- AND ON THE **STRIP,** NO LESS.?
10¢ Los Angele
MAYOR YORT FACT-FINDING ARGENTIN
THAT, LITTLE LADY, IS PRECISELY WHAT DAREDEVIL IS ASKING **HIMSELF** RIGHT ABOUT NOW...!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN **BED**--
--OR AT LEAST IN **MANHATTAN!**

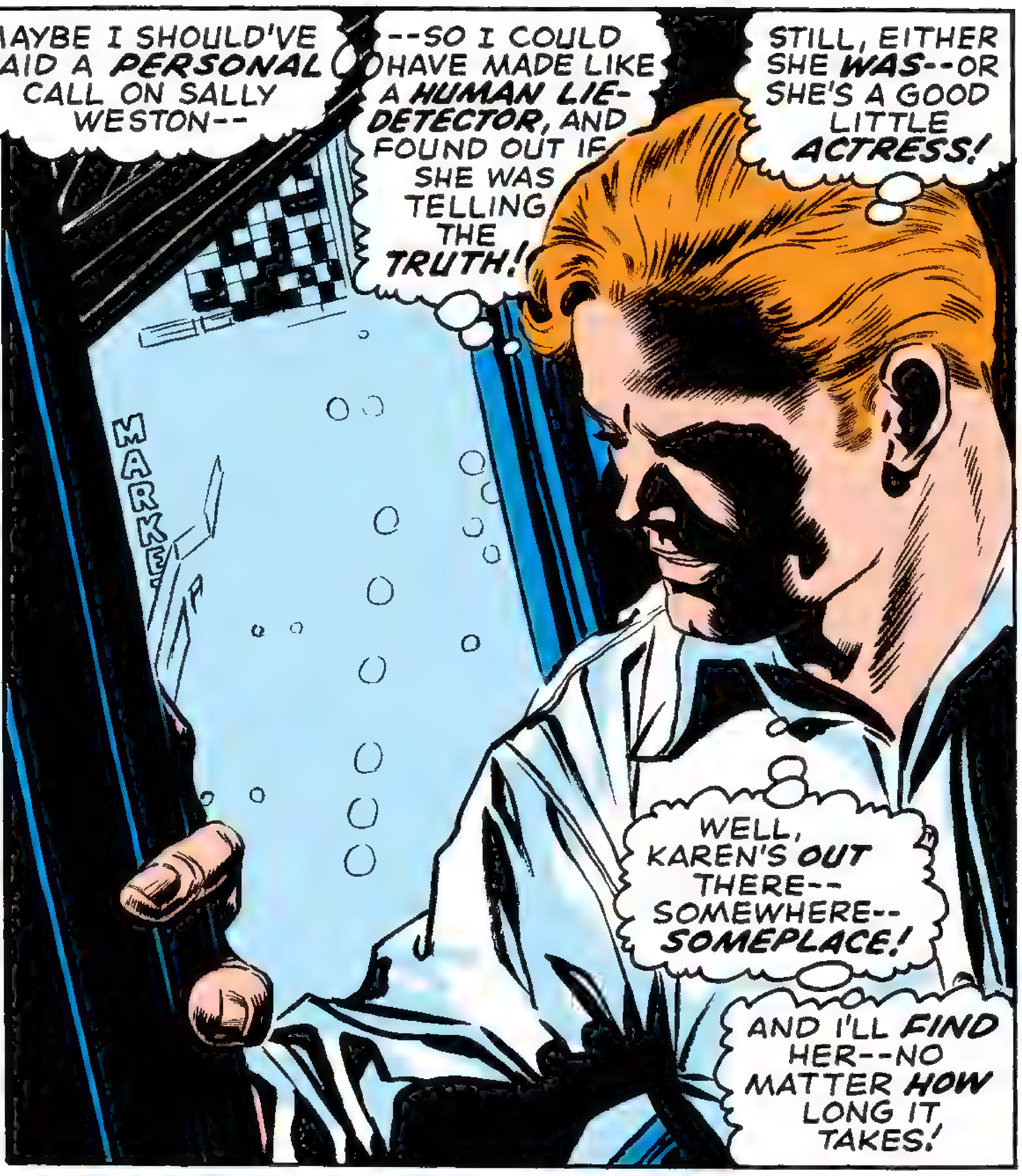

OH WELL...NO SENSE FRETTING OVER *THAT* AT THIS POINT!
I'M *HERE* IN TINSELTOWN--AND I MAY AS WELL MAKE THE *BEST* OF IT!
AND RIGHT NOW, I'D BETTER GET SOME *SHUT-EYE*--
--SO THAT, COME TOMORROW, I CAN GO BACK TO LOOKING FOR A *NEEDLE* IN THIS CRAZY-QUILT *HAYSTACK!*
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE HIGH-AND-MIGHTY *DAREDEVIL* WOULD BE REDUCED TO *THIS?*
SNEAKING INTO A CHEAP *HOTEL*--INTO WHICH HE REGISTERED UNDER AN *ASSUMED NAME?*
HMMM...LOOKS LIKE CRYING OVER SPILT MILK IS BECOMING MY *BAG!*
STILL, IF ONLY IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE *GLADIATOR*--!
YEAH--THE *GLADIATOR!*
HE'S RUSTING AWAY IN SOME *CELL* SOMEWHERE--
BUT WOULDN'T HE HAVE A GOOD *HORSE-LAUGH* IF HE KNEW ALL THE *HEARTACHE* HE'S CAUSED ME!

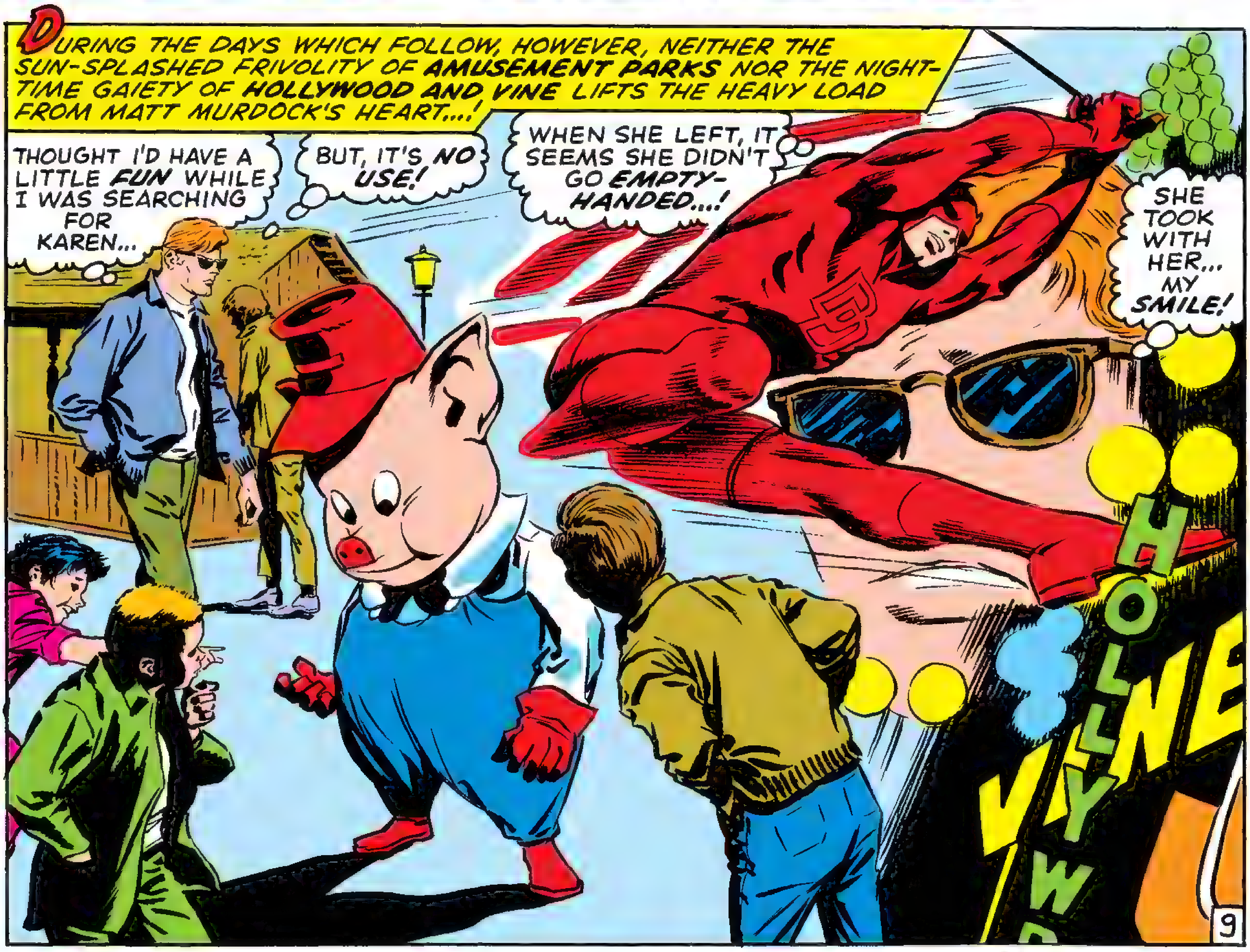

"IT WAS HIS ATTEMPTED **JAILBREAK** ON PRISON ISLAND--AN ATTEMPT THAT WAS **DOOMED** BEFORE IT BEGAN--THAT KEPT ME BUSY PLAYING **CAT-AND-MOUSE** FOR LONG, PRECIOUS MOMENTS--"
"FOR, WHILE I WAS FIGHTING FOR MY **LIFE**, THE ONLY GIRL I'VE EVER LOVED WAS LEAVING ON A **PLANE**--AND PROBABLY HOPING AGAINST HOPE FOR ME TO RETURN AND **STOP** HER--!"*
*ALL THIS WONDERMENT OCCURRED IN OUR PREVIOUS ISH! --STAN
"SURE, I FINALLY CAME ON LIKE **MIGHTY MOUSE** AND SAVED THE **DAY**--"
"--BUT NOT TILL THE **BALL GAME** WAS OVER--THE SHUT-OUT ALREADY **POSTED!**"
"'CAUSE, A COUPLE OF HOURS **LATER**--"
...SHE'S **GONE--** BUT MAYBE I CAN LEARN WHERE SHE **WENT!**
GOOD THING HER **LANDLADY** KNOWS ME AND SLIPPED ME HER **KEY!**
SAY NOW--WHAT HAVE WE **HERE?**
A **MEMO PAD** --WITH SOME FAINT **IMPRESSIONS** ON THE TOP SHEET!
KAREN MUST HAVE **WRITTEN** SOMETHING ON THE PAGE ABOVE--AND TAKEN IT **WITH** HER!
Saly west
981
Holl
BUT, I CAN STILL TELL **WHAT** SHE WROTE--BY **FINGER-READING** THE MARKINGS!
BROTHER MATT DIDN'T SEE 2000 **SPY MOVIES** FOR NOTHING!


JUST AS I THOUGHT-- AND HOPED!
IT'S AN ADDRESS-- IN LOS ANGELES! THEN THAT'S WHERE THE LITTLE LADY HAS GONE!
AND, IF KAREN PAGE GOES-- CAN DD BE FAR BEHIND?
"BUT, AS IF TO UNDERSCORE HOW TANGLED IS THE WEB I'VE BEEN WEAVING LATELY..."
FOGGY... I'VE BEEN FEELING KIND-OF RUN-DOWN LATELY!
ANY CHANCE OF MY GETTING AWAY FOR A WHILE? MAYBE A COUPLE OF WEEKS IN THE MIAMI SUN--
KAREN'S LEAVING STILL GOT YOU DOWN, HUH?
I STILL CAN'T SLIP ANYTHING PAST YOU, EX-PARTNER!
THAT'S HOW I GOT TO BE D.A., MATT!
STILL, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL!
IF ANYTHING LIKE THAT EVER HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND DEBBIE--!
I COULDN'T TELL FOGGY THE TRUTH--THAT KAREN REALLY SEEMS TO BE IN L.A.!
NEVER CAN TELL WHEN I MIGHT HAVE TO USE MY DAREDEVIL IDENTITY OUT HERE--
UNITED
--AND IT'D BE DOWNRIGHT SUSPICIOUS IF BOTH DD AND MILD-MANNERED MATTHEW TURNED UP IN SMOG CITY AT THE SAME TIME!
NOW, IF ONLY THAT ADDRESS WASN'T A RED HERRING--!
HERE, MISTER... CAN I HELP YOU?
FRIEND... DON'T I WISH YOU COULD!

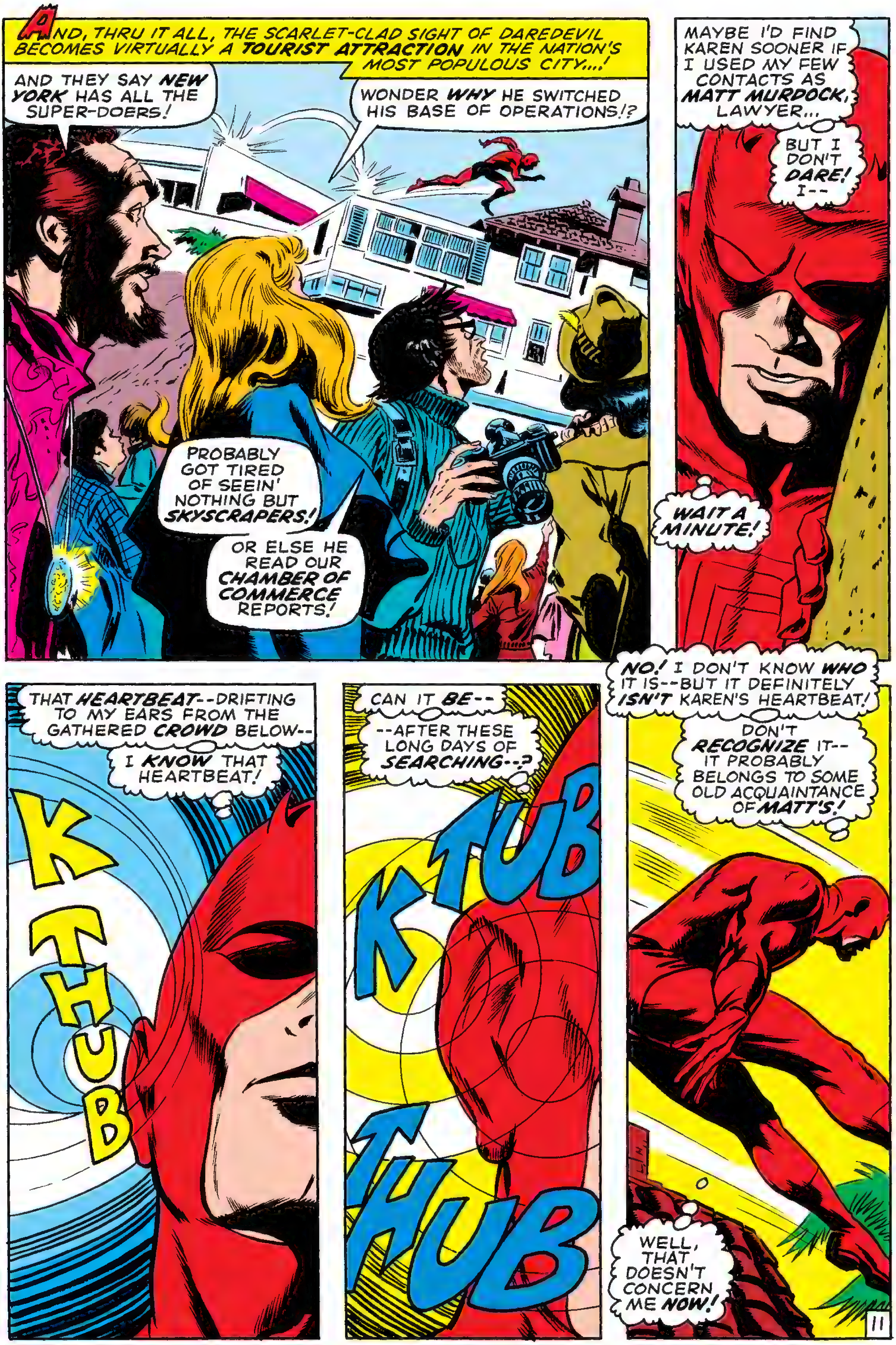

...WELL, CHALK UP **LUCKY BREAK #1**, ANYWAY!
THERE'S A LISTED **PHONE NUMBER** TO GO WITH THAT NAME AND ADDRESS I FOUND!
DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL **SAY** TO HER--I'LL JUST HAVE TO PLAY IT BY **EAR!**
GATE 7
UNITED
SOMEONE **ANSWERING** --A **GIRL**--!
KAREN ?!
KAREN **WHO?** I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S **NO ONE** HERE BY THAT--
OHH-- YOU'RE A FRIEND OF **KAREN PAGE?**
YES, **THIS** IS SALLY WESTON, BUT--
WHY, YES...SHE'S AN OLD **COLLEGE ROOMMATE** OF MINE!
BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER IN **MONTHS!***
ISN'T SHE STILL IN **NEW YORK?** SHE'S SECRETARY TO SOME **LAWYER** THERE, I THINK!
MY **ADDRESS?** SHE MUST HAVE TAKEN IT DOWN SO SHE COULD GIVE ME A **RING** WHILE SHE'S HERE!
BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD A **PEEP** OUT OF HER YET!
*NATURALLY, OUR INCOGNITO CRIME-BUSTER CAN'T **SEE** OR **SENSE** THE SCENE PICTURED ABOVE--BUT WE DIDN'T WANT TO KEEP ANY SECRETS FROM OUR RAPTUROUS **READERS!** --OL' S.

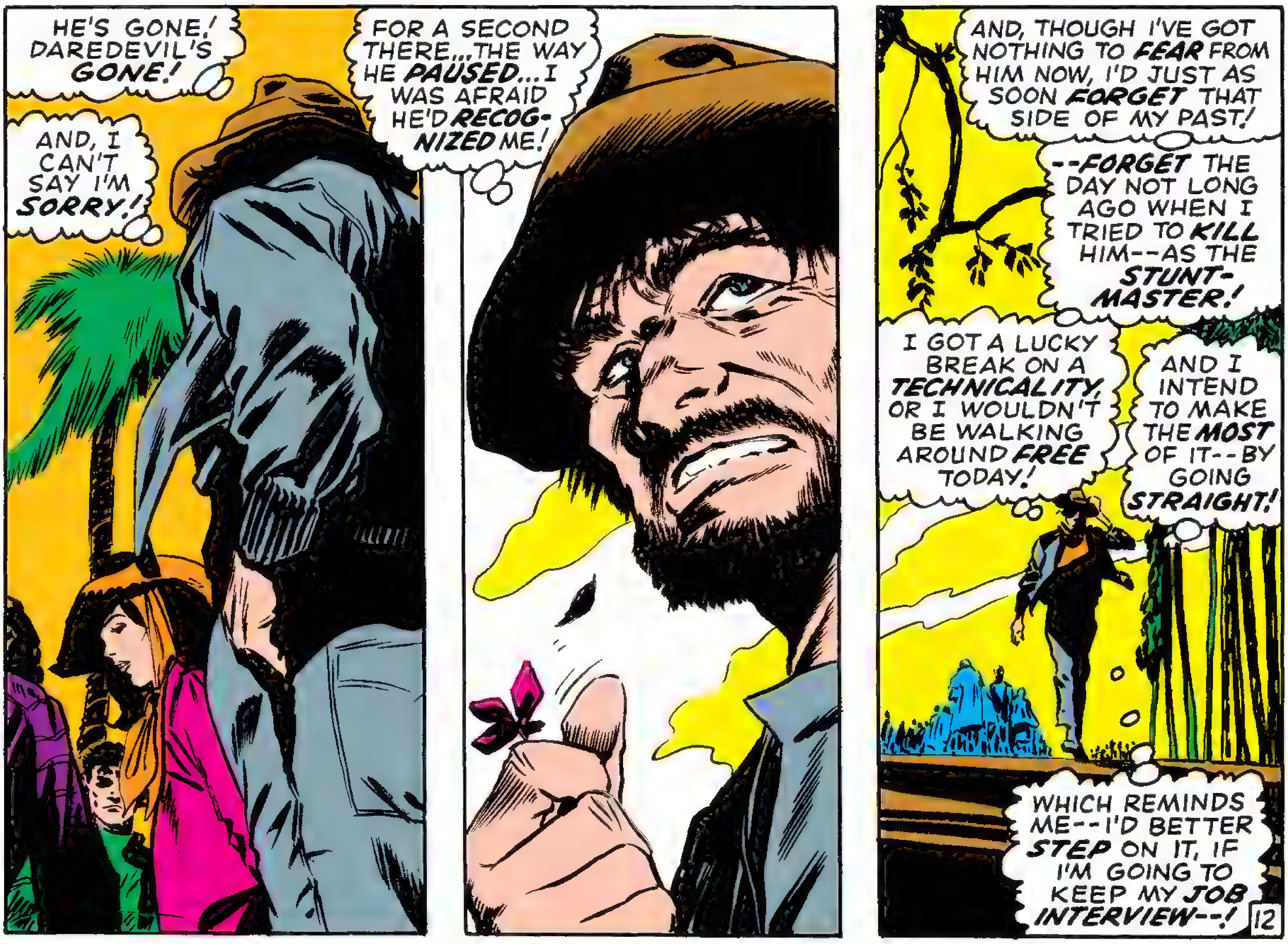

IF SHE *DOES* CALL ME, WHO SHALL I SAY--?
HELLO? *HELLO...?*

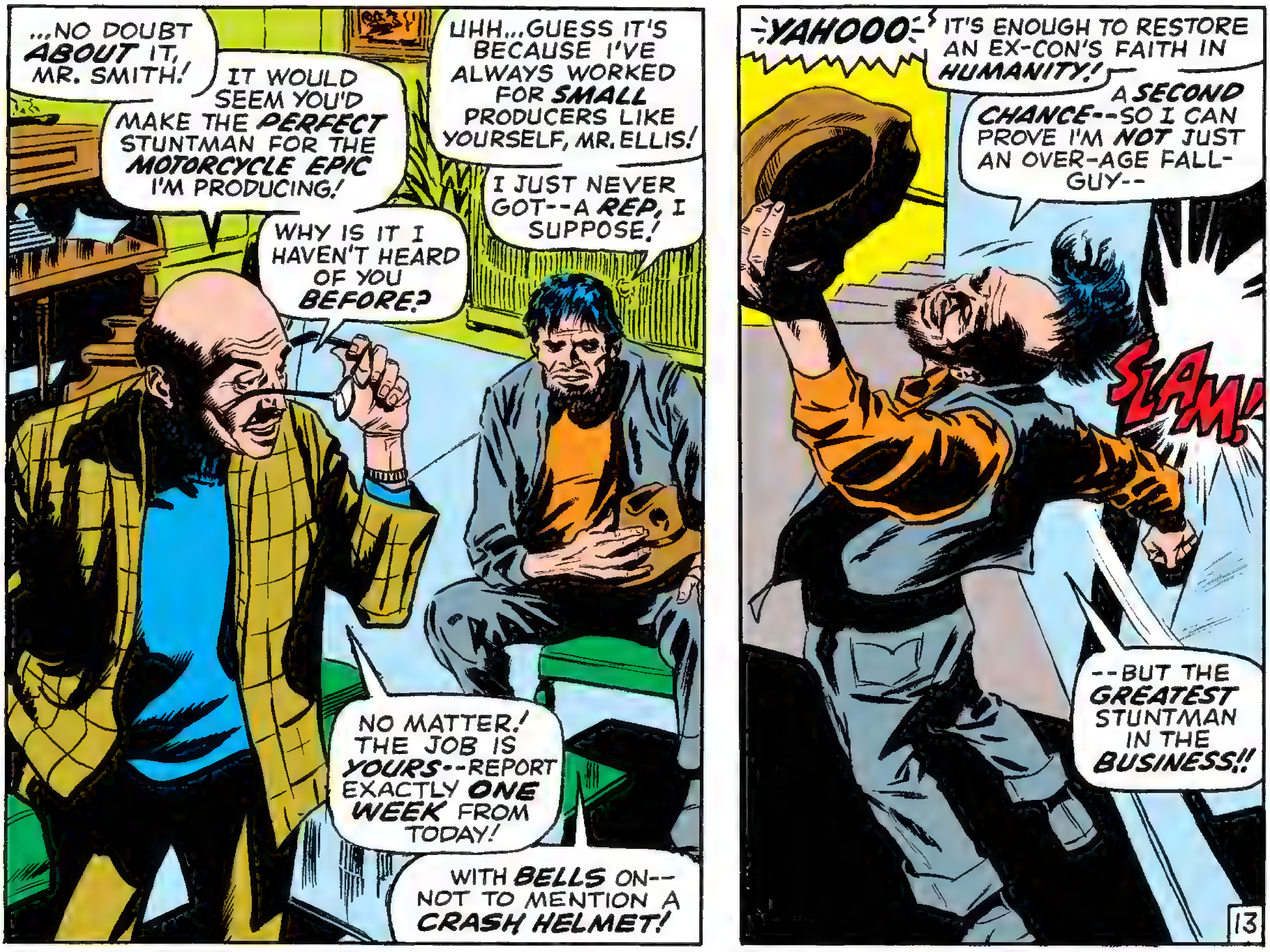

MAYBE I SHOULD'VE PAID A *PERSONAL* CALL ON SALLY WESTON--
--SO I COULD HAVE MADE LIKE A *HUMAN LIE-DETECTOR*, AND FOUND OUT IF SHE WAS TELLING THE *TRUTH!*
STILL, EITHER SHE *WAS*--OR SHE'S A GOOD LITTLE *ACTRESS!*
MARKET
WELL, KAREN'S *OUT* THERE--SOMEWHERE--*SOMEPLACE!*
AND I'LL *FIND* HER--NO MATTER *HOW* LONG IT TAKES!

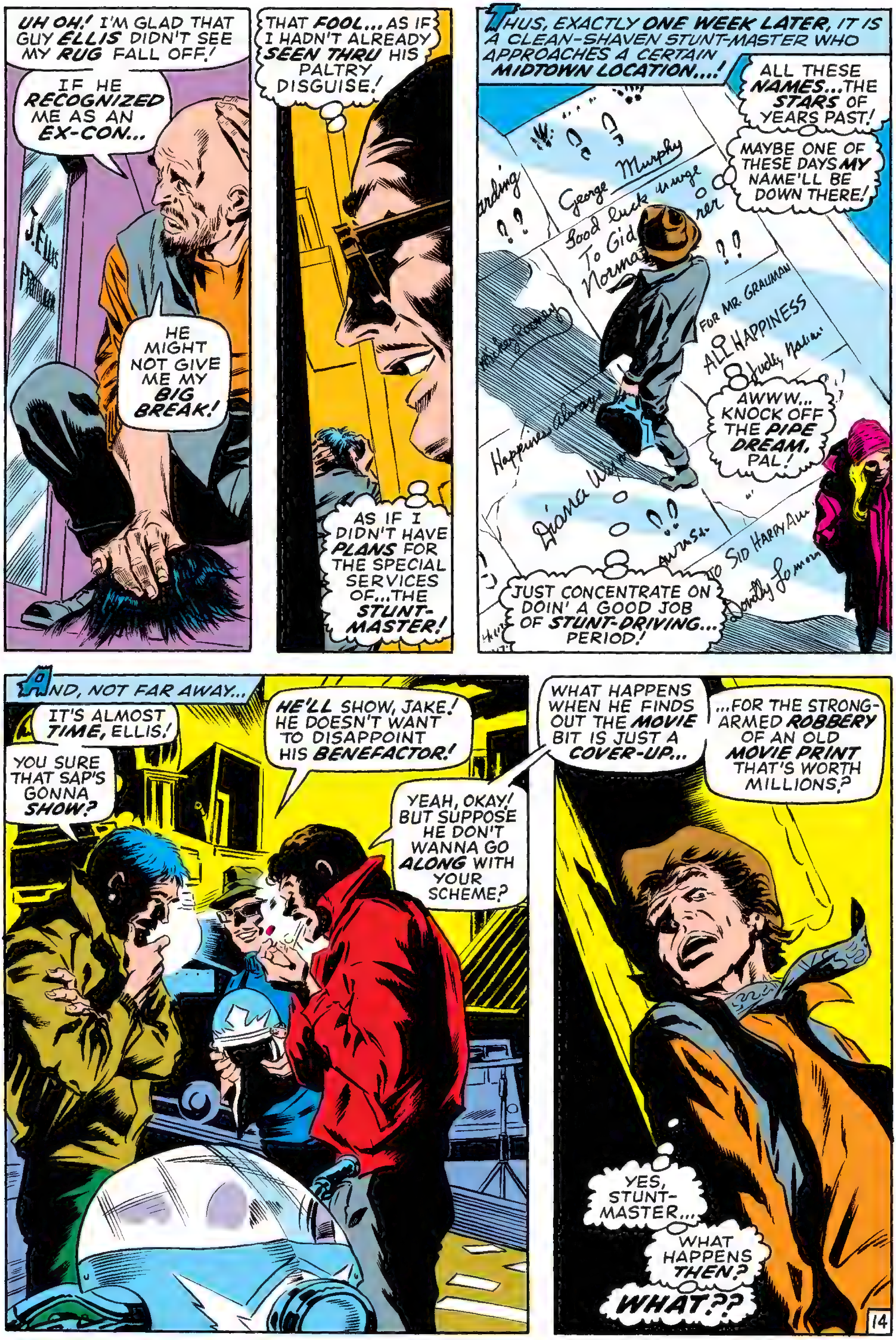

DURING THE DAYS WHICH FOLLOW, HOWEVER, NEITHER THE SUN-SPLASHED FRIVOLITY OF ***AMUSEMENT PARKS*** *NOR THE NIGHT-TIME GAIETY OF* ***HOLLYWOOD AND VINE*** *LIFTS THE HEAVY LOAD FROM MATT MURDOCK'S HEART...!*
THOUGHT I'D HAVE A LITTLE *FUN* WHILE I WAS SEARCHING FOR KAREN...
BUT, IT'S *NO USE!*
WHEN SHE LEFT, IT SEEMS SHE DIDN'T GO *EMPTY-HANDED...!*
SHE TOOK WITH HER... MY *SMILE!*
HOLLYWOOD
VINE

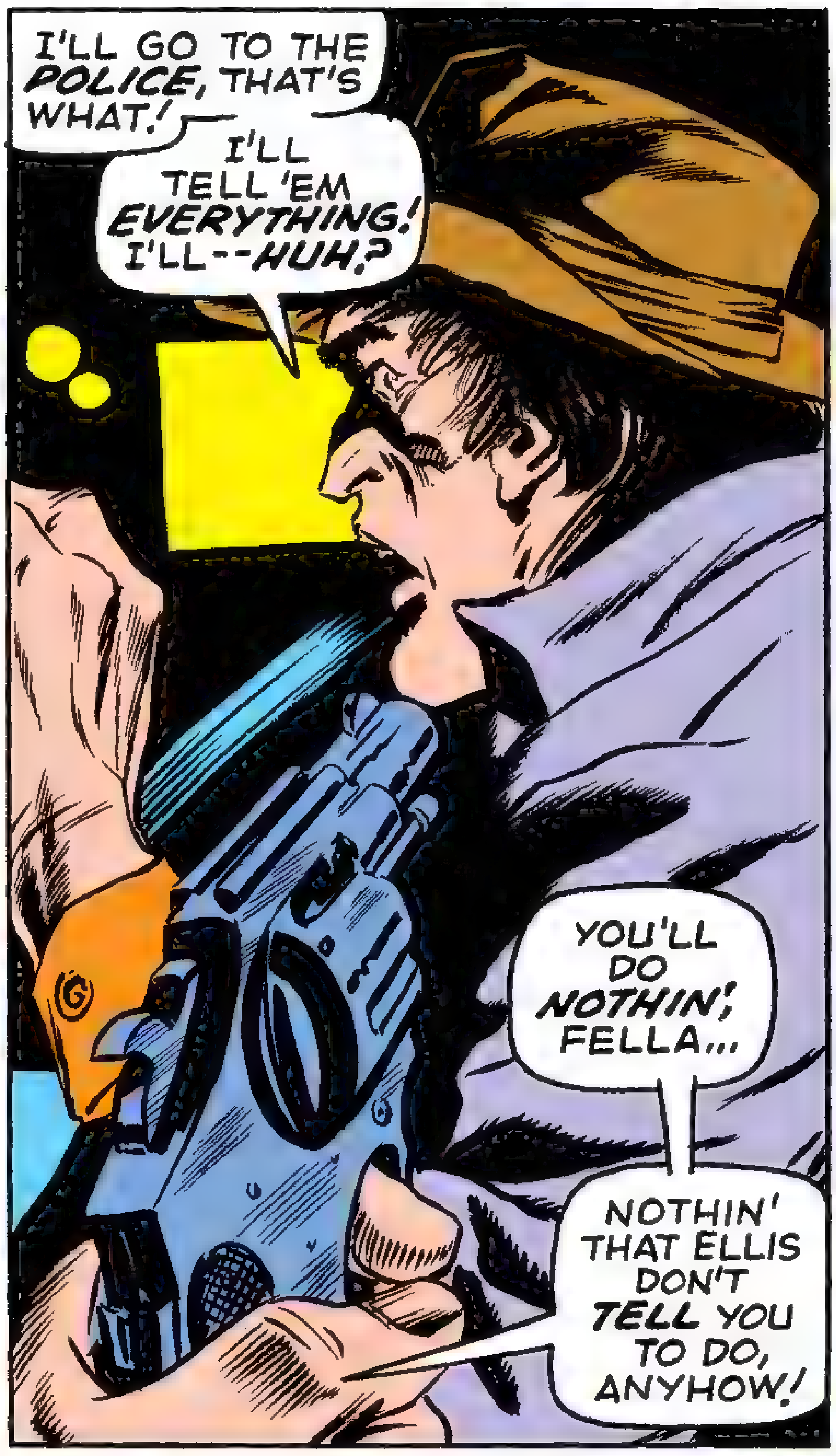
EVERY PEAL OF **LAUGHTER** I HEAR...EACH PASSING **HEARTBEAT**...
...BECOMES **HER** LAUGH... **HER** HEARTBEAT...
...UNTIL I'M NO LONGER CERTAIN I COULD TELL THE **DIFFERENCE**...!
WILSHIRE

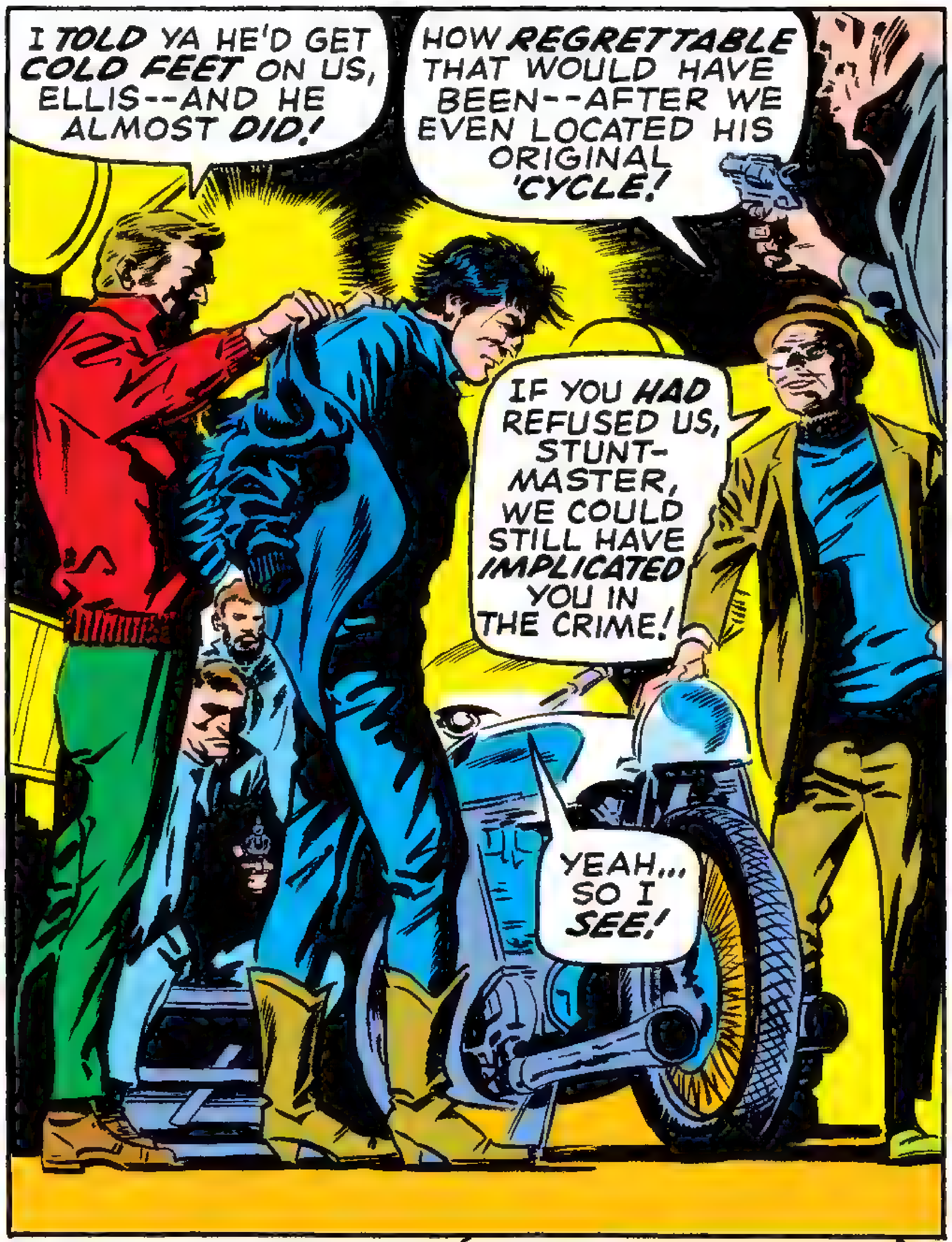

AND, THRU IT ALL, THE SCARLET-CLAD SIGHT OF DAREDEVIL BECOMES VIRTUALLY A **TOURIST ATTRACTION** IN THE NATION'S MOST POPULOUS CITY...!
AND THEY SAY **NEW YORK** HAS ALL THE SUPER-DOERS!
WONDER **WHY** HE SWITCHED HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS!?
PROBABLY GOT TIRED OF SEEIN' NOTHING BUT **SKYSCRAPERS!**
OR ELSE HE READ OUR **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** REPORTS!
MAYBE I'D FIND KAREN SOONER IF I USED MY FEW CONTACTS AS **MATT MURDOCK**, LAWYER...
BUT I DON'T **DARE!** I--
WAIT A MINUTE!
THAT **HEARTBEAT**--DRIFTING TO MY EARS FROM THE GATHERED **CROWD** BELOW--
I **KNOW** THAT HEARTBEAT!
K THUB
CAN IT **BE**--
--AFTER THESE LONG DAYS OF **SEARCHING**--?
K TUB
THUB
NO! I DON'T KNOW **WHO** IT IS--BUT IT DEFINITELY **ISN'T** KAREN'S HEARTBEAT!
DON'T **RECOGNIZE** IT--IT PROBABLY BELONGS TO SOME OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF **MATT'S!**
WELL, THAT DOESN'T CONCERN ME **NOW!**

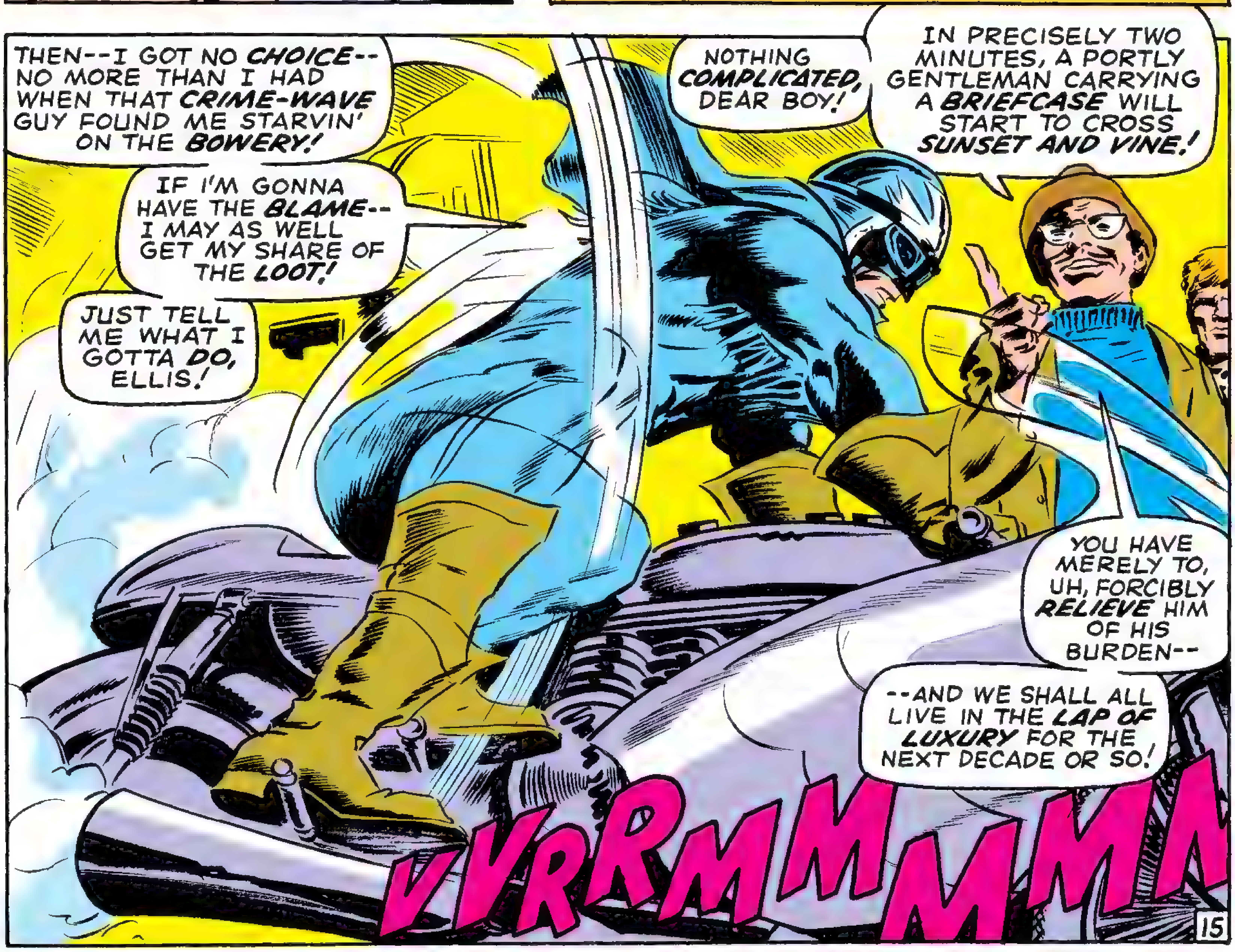

HE'S GONE! DAREDEVIL'S GONE!
AND, I CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY!
FOR A SECOND THERE...THE WAY HE PAUSED...I WAS AFRAID HE'D RECOGNIZED ME!
AND, THOUGH I'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HIM NOW, I'D JUST AS SOON FORGET THAT SIDE OF MY PAST!
--FORGET THE DAY NOT LONG AGO WHEN I TRIED TO KILL HIM--AS THE STUNT-MASTER!
I GOT A LUCKY BREAK ON A TECHNICALITY, OR I WOULDN'T BE WALKING AROUND FREE TODAY!
AND I INTEND TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT--BY GOING STRAIGHT!
WHICH REMINDS ME--I'D BETTER STEP ON IT, IF I'M GOING TO KEEP MY JOB INTERVIEW--!
12

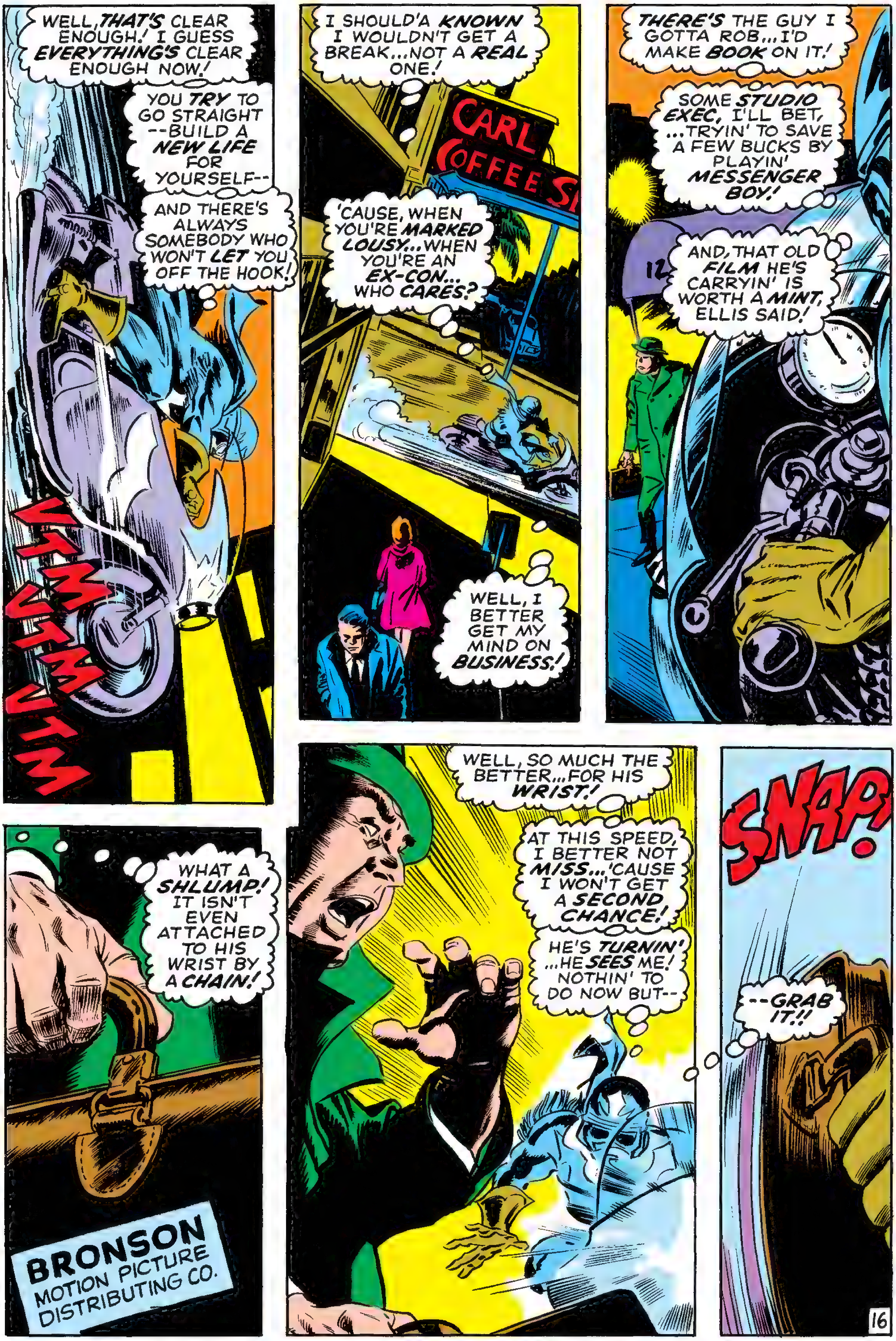

...NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MR. SMITH!
IT WOULD SEEM YOU'D MAKE THE PERFECT STUNTMAN FOR THE MOTORCYCLE EPIC I'M PRODUCING!
WHY IS IT I HAVEN'T HEARD OF YOU BEFORE?
UHH...GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS WORKED FOR SMALL PRODUCERS LIKE YOURSELF, MR. ELLIS!
I JUST NEVER GOT--A REP, I SUPPOSE!
NO MATTER! THE JOB IS YOURS--REPORT EXACTLY ONE WEEK FROM TODAY!
WITH BELLS ON--NOT TO MENTION A CRASH HELMET!
YAHOOO-
IT'S ENOUGH TO RESTORE AN EX-CON'S FAITH IN HUMANITY!
A SECOND CHANCE--SO I CAN PROVE I'M NOT JUST AN OVER-AGE FALL-GUY--
SLAM!
--BUT THE GREATEST STUNTMAN IN THE BUSINESS!!
13

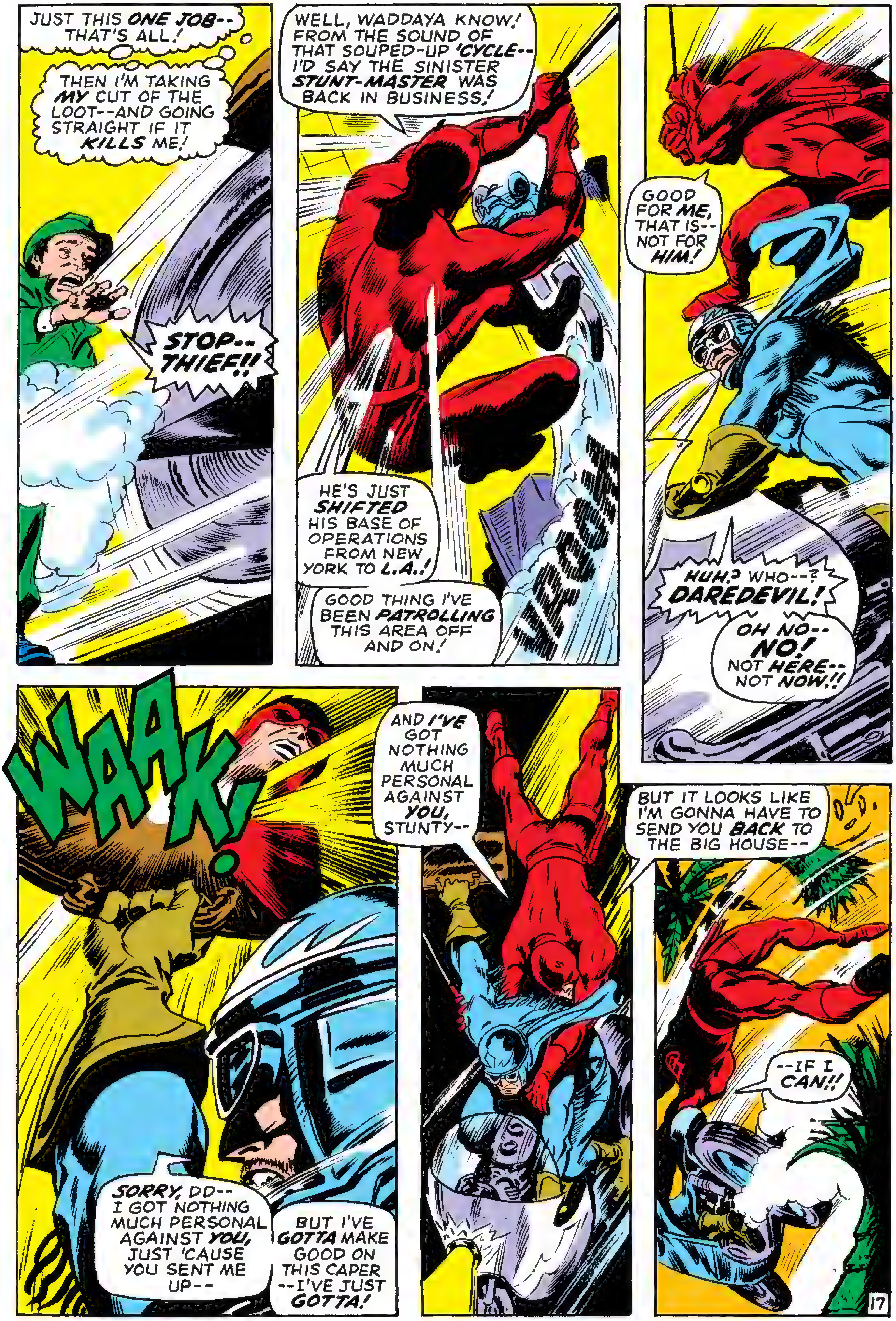

UH OH! I'M GLAD THAT GUY ELLIS DIDN'T SEE MY RUG FALL OFF!
IF HE RECOGNIZED ME AS AN EX-CON...
HE MIGHT NOT GIVE ME MY BIG BREAK!
J. ELLIS PRODUCTIONS
THAT FOOL... AS IF I HADN'T ALREADY SEEN THRU HIS PALTRY DISGUISE!
AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE PLANS FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICES OF... THE STUNT-MASTER!
THUS, EXACTLY ONE WEEK LATER, IT IS A CLEAN-SHAVEN STUNT-MASTER WHO APPROACHES A CERTAIN MIDTOWN LOCATION...!
ALL THESE NAMES... THE STARS OF YEARS PAST!
MAYBE ONE OF THESE DAYS MY NAME'LL BE DOWN THERE!
George Murphy
Good luck always
FOR MR. GRAUMAN
ALL HAPPINESS
Happiness always
AWWW... KNOCK OFF THE PIPE DREAM, PAL!
JUST CONCENTRATE ON DOIN' A GOOD JOB OF STUNT-DRIVING... PERIOD!
AND, NOT FAR AWAY...
IT'S ALMOST TIME, ELLIS!
YOU SURE THAT SAP'S GONNA SHOW?
HE'LL SHOW, JAKE! HE DOESN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT HIS BENEFACTOR!
YEAH, OKAY! BUT SUPPOSE HE DON'T WANNA GO ALONG WITH YOUR SCHEME?
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE FINDS OUT THE MOVIE BIT IS JUST A COVER-UP...
...FOR THE STRONG-ARMED ROBBERY OF AN OLD MOVIE PRINT THAT'S WORTH MILLIONS?
YES, STUNT-MASTER... WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
WHAT??

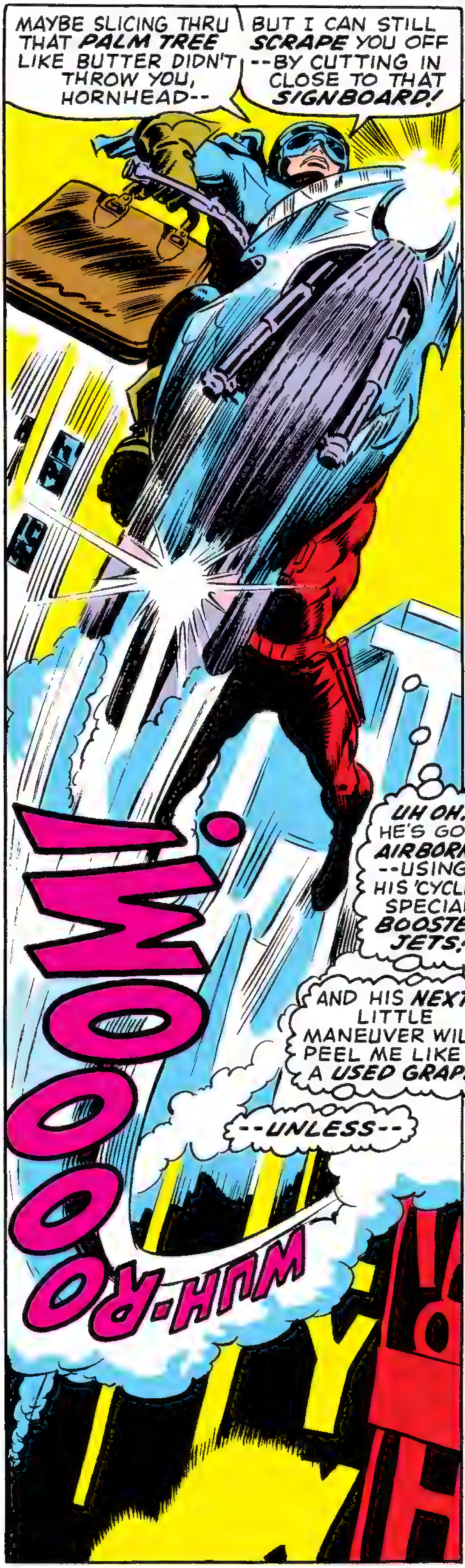

I'LL GO TO THE *POLICE*, THAT'S WHAT!
I'LL TELL 'EM *EVERYTHING!* I'LL--*HUH?*
YOU'LL DO *NOTHIN'*, FELLA...
NOTHIN' THAT ELLIS DON'T *TELL* YOU TO DO, ANYHOW!

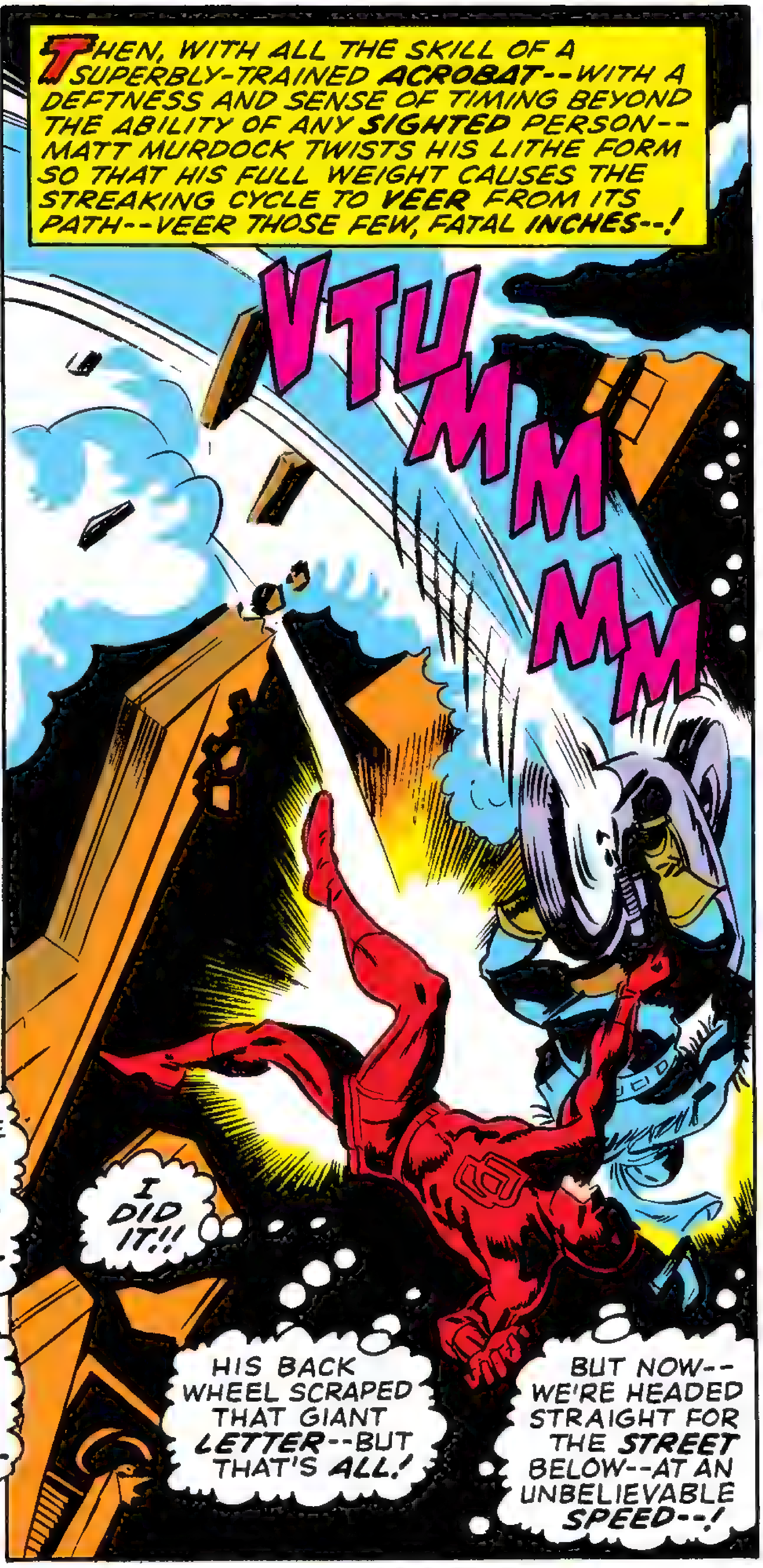

I *TOLD* YA HE'D GET *COLD FEET* ON US, ELLIS--AND HE ALMOST *DID!*
HOW *REGRETTABLE* THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN--AFTER WE EVEN LOCATED HIS ORIGINAL *'CYCLE!*
IF YOU *HAD* REFUSED US, STUNT-MASTER, WE COULD STILL HAVE *IMPLICATED* YOU IN THE CRIME!
YEAH... SO I *SEE!*

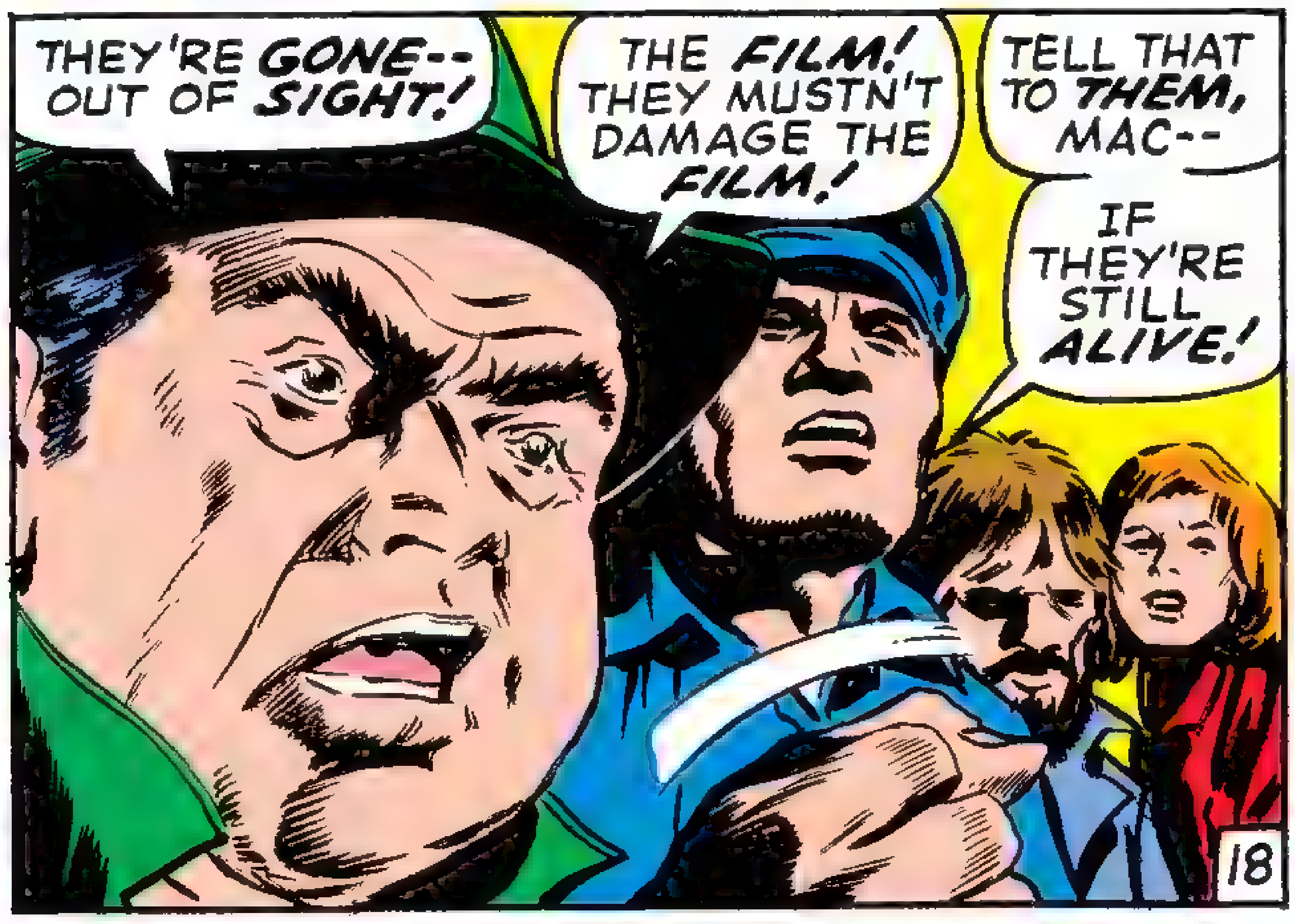

THEN--I GOT NO *CHOICE*--NO MORE THAN I HAD WHEN THAT *CRIME-WAVE* GUY FOUND ME STARVIN' ON THE *BOWERY!*
IF I'M GONNA HAVE THE *BLAME*--I MAY AS WELL GET MY SHARE OF THE *LOOT!*
JUST TELL ME WHAT I GOTTA *DO*, ELLIS!
NOTHING *COMPLICATED*, DEAR BOY!
IN PRECISELY TWO MINUTES, A PORTLY GENTLEMAN CARRYING A *BRIEFCASE* WILL START TO CROSS *SUNSET AND VINE!*
YOU HAVE MERELY TO, UH, FORCIBLY *RELIEVE* HIM OF HIS BURDEN--
--AND WE SHALL ALL LIVE IN THE *LAP OF LUXURY* FOR THE NEXT DECADE OR SO!
VVRRMMMMMM

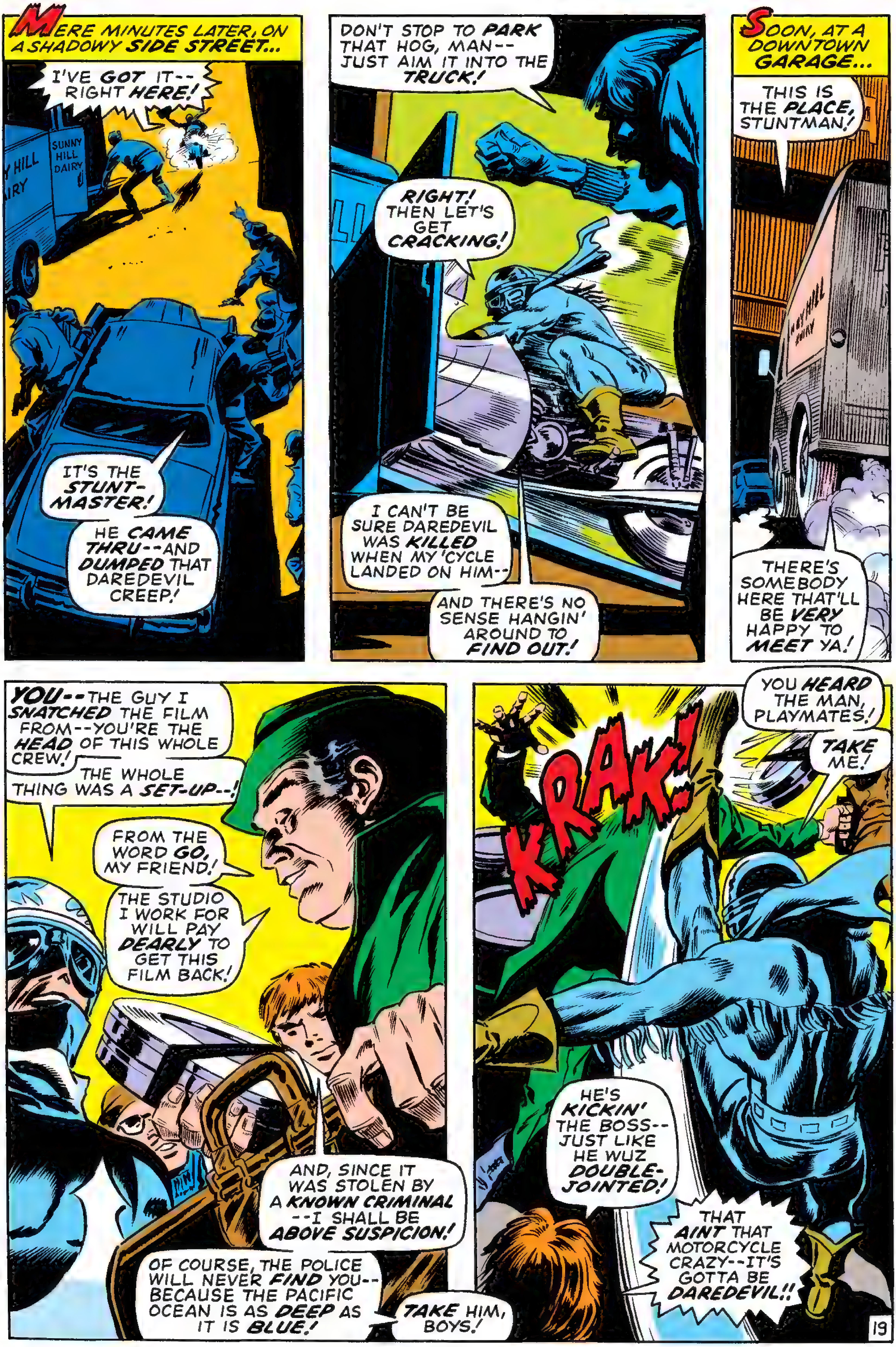

WELL, THAT'S CLEAR ENOUGH! I GUESS EVERYTHING'S CLEAR ENOUGH NOW!
YOU TRY TO GO STRAIGHT --BUILD A NEW LIFE FOR YOURSELF--
AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY WHO WON'T LET YOU OFF THE HOOK!
VTM VTM VTM
I SHOULD'A KNOWN I WOULDN'T GET A BREAK...NOT A REAL ONE!
CARL COFFEE S
'CAUSE, WHEN YOU'RE MARKED LOUSY...WHEN YOU'RE AN EX-CON... WHO CARES?
WELL, I BETTER GET MY MIND ON BUSINESS!
THERE'S THE GUY I GOTTA ROB...I'D MAKE BOOK ON IT!
SOME STUDIO EXEC, I'LL BET, ...TRYIN' TO SAVE A FEW BUCKS BY PLAYIN' MESSENGER BOY!
AND, THAT OLD FILM HE'S CARRYIN' IS WORTH A MINT, ELLIS SAID!
12
WHAT A SHLUMP! IT ISN'T EVEN ATTACHED TO HIS WRIST BY A CHAIN!
BRONSON MOTION PICTURE DISTRIBUTING CO.
WELL, SO MUCH THE BETTER...FOR HIS WRIST!
AT THIS SPEED, I BETTER NOT MISS...'CAUSE I WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE!
HE'S TURNIN' ...HE SEES ME! NOTHIN' TO DO NOW BUT--
SNAP!
--GRAB IT!!

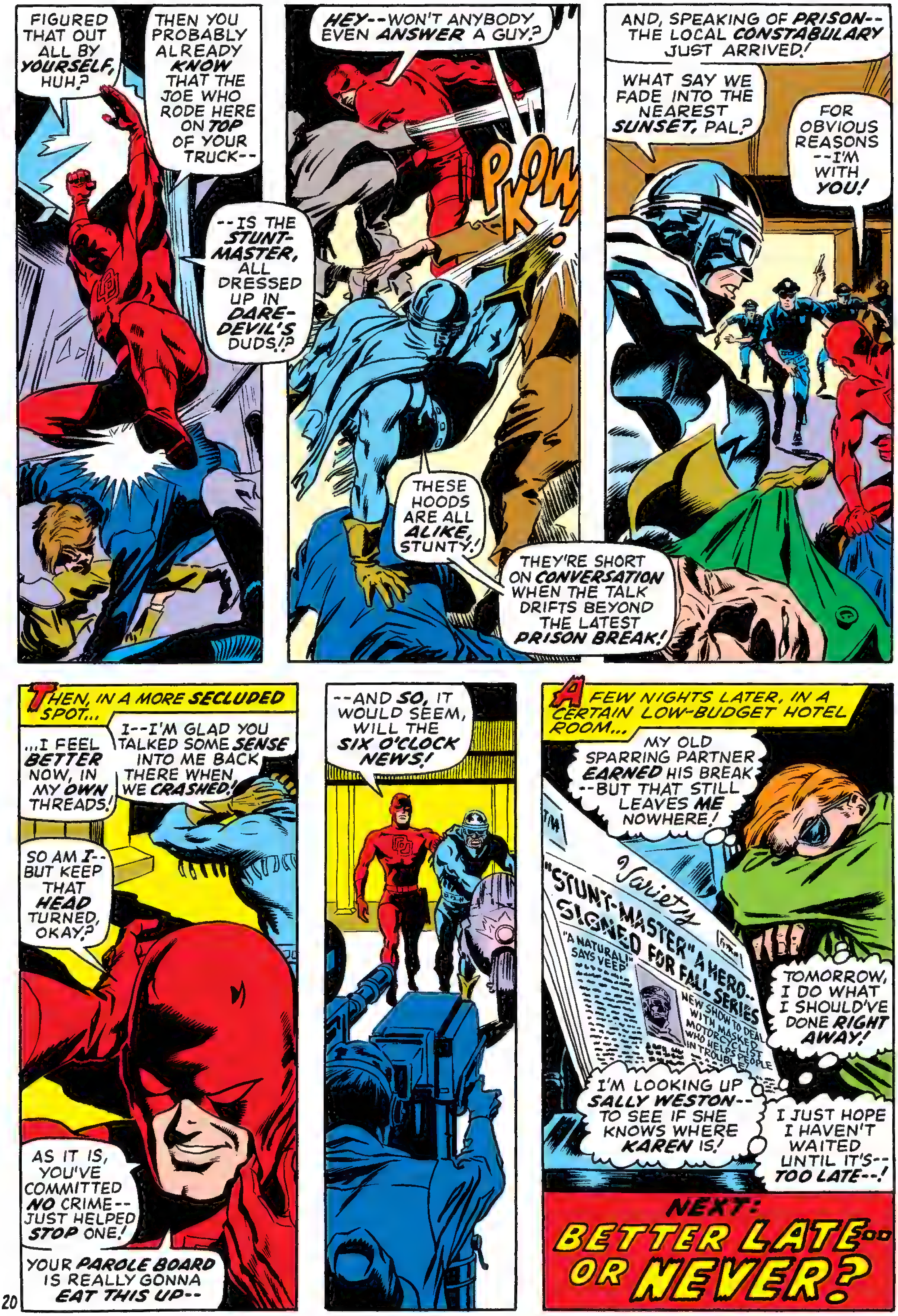

JUST THIS ONE JOB-- THAT'S ALL!
THEN I'M TAKING MY CUT OF THE LOOT--AND GOING STRAIGHT IF IT KILLS ME!
STOP-- THIEF!!
WELL, WADDAYA KNOW! FROM THE SOUND OF THAT SOUPED-UP 'CYCLE-- I'D SAY THE SINISTER STUNT-MASTER WAS BACK IN BUSINESS!
HE'S JUST SHIFTED HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS FROM NEW YORK TO L.A.!
GOOD THING I'VE BEEN PATROLLING THIS AREA OFF AND ON!
VRRROOM
GOOD FOR ME, THAT IS-- NOT FOR HIM!
HUH? WHO--? DAREDEVIL!
OH NO-- NO! NOT HERE-- NOT NOW!!
WAAK!
SORRY, DD-- I GOT NOTHING MUCH PERSONAL AGAINST YOU, JUST 'CAUSE YOU SENT ME UP--
BUT I'VE GOTTA MAKE GOOD ON THIS CAPER --I'VE JUST GOTTA!
AND I'VE GOT NOTHING MUCH PERSONAL AGAINST YOU, STUNTY--
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO SEND YOU BACK TO THE BIG HOUSE--
--IF I CAN!!


MAYBE SLICING THRU THAT **PALM TREE** LIKE BUTTER DIDN'T THROW YOU, HORNHEAD--
BUT I CAN STILL **SCRAPE** YOU OFF --BY CUTTING IN CLOSE TO THAT **SIGNBOARD!**
UH OH! HE'S GONE **AIRBORNE** --USING HIS 'CYCLE'S SPECIAL **BOOSTER-JETS!**
AND HIS **NEXT** LITTLE MANEUVER WILL PEEL ME LIKE A **USED GRAPE**--
--**UNLESS**--
WOOOOM!
WUH-ROOOO


THEN, WITH ALL THE SKILL OF A SUPERBLY-TRAINED **ACROBAT**--WITH A DEFTNESS AND SENSE OF TIMING BEYOND THE ABILITY OF ANY **SIGHTED** PERSON--MATT MURDOCK TWISTS HIS LITHE FORM SO THAT HIS FULL WEIGHT CAUSES THE STREAKING CYCLE TO **VEER** FROM ITS PATH--VEER THOSE FEW, FATAL **INCHES**--!
VTUMMMMMM
I DID IT!!
HIS BACK WHEEL SCRAPED THAT GIANT **LETTER**--BUT THAT'S **ALL!**
BUT NOW--WE'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE **STREET** BELOW--AT AN UNBELIEVABLE **SPEED**--!


THEY'RE **GONE**--OUT OF **SIGHT!**
THE **FILM!** THEY MUSTN'T DAMAGE THE **FILM!**
TELL THAT TO **THEM**, MAC--
IF THEY'RE STILL **ALIVE!**

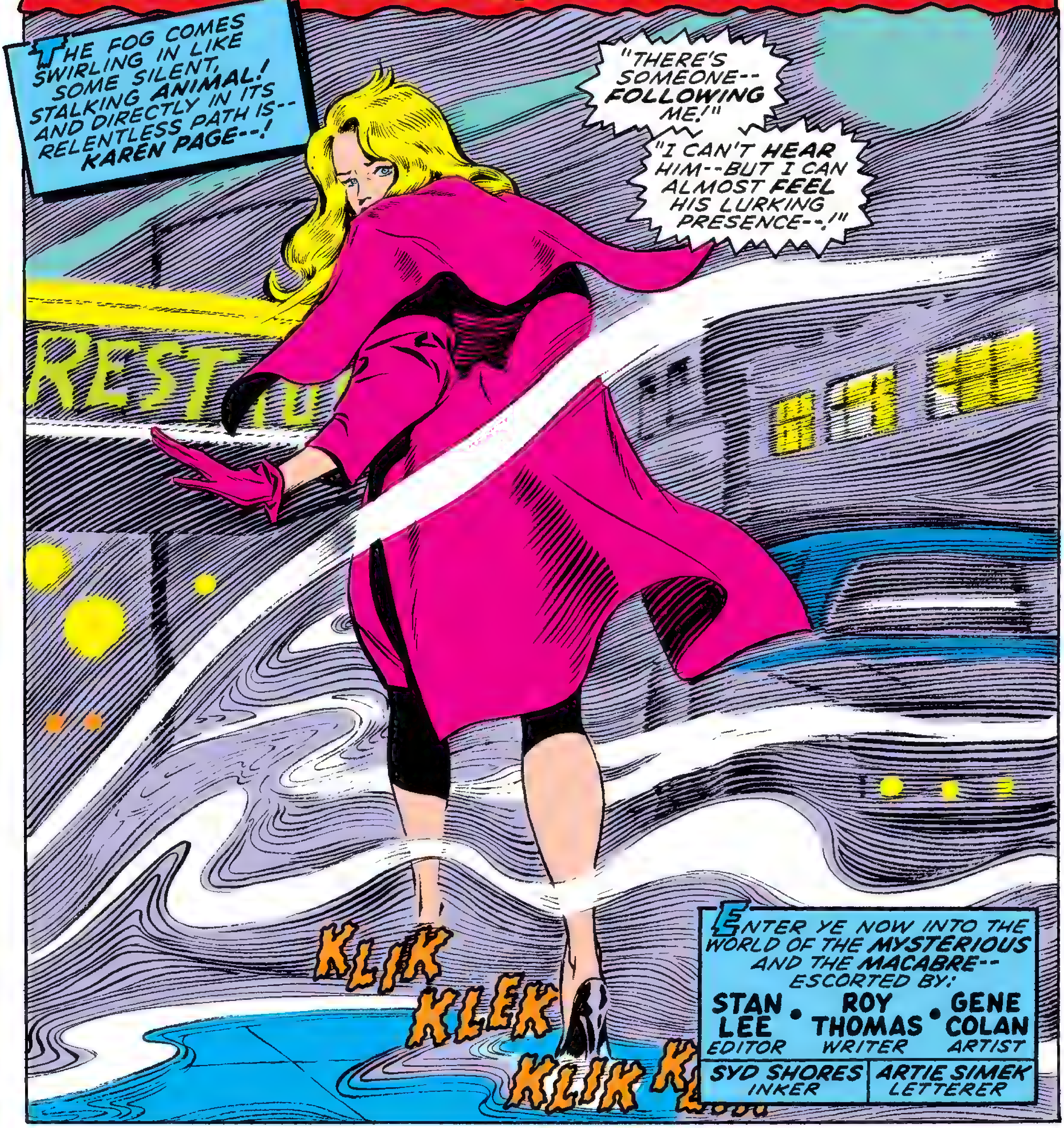

MERE MINUTES LATER, ON A SHADOWY SIDE STREET...
I'VE GOT IT-- RIGHT HERE!
SUNNY HILL DAIRY
IT'S THE STUNT-MASTER!
HE CAME THRU--AND DUMPED THAT DAREDEVIL CREEP!
DON'T STOP TO PARK THAT HOG, MAN-- JUST AIM IT INTO THE TRUCK!
RIGHT! THEN LET'S GET CRACKING!
I CAN'T BE SURE DAREDEVIL WAS KILLED WHEN MY 'CYCLE LANDED ON HIM--
AND THERE'S NO SENSE HANGIN' AROUND TO FIND OUT!
SOON, AT A DOWNTOWN GARAGE...
THIS IS THE PLACE, STUNTMAN!
THERE'S SOMEBODY HERE THAT'LL BE VERY HAPPY TO MEET YA!
YOU--THE GUY I SNATCHED THE FILM FROM--YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THIS WHOLE CREW!
THE WHOLE THING WAS A SET-UP--!
FROM THE WORD GO, MY FRIEND!
THE STUDIO I WORK FOR WILL PAY DEARLY TO GET THIS FILM BACK!
AND, SINCE IT WAS STOLEN BY A KNOWN CRIMINAL --I SHALL BE ABOVE SUSPICION!
OF COURSE, THE POLICE WILL NEVER FIND YOU--BECAUSE THE PACIFIC OCEAN IS AS DEEP AS IT IS BLUE!
TAKE HIM, BOYS!
YOU HEARD THE MAN, PLAYMATES!
TAKE ME!
KRAK!
HE'S KICKIN' THE BOSS--JUST LIKE HE WUZ DOUBLE-JOINTED!
THAT AIN'T THAT MOTORCYCLE CRAZY--IT'S GOTTA BE DAREDEVIL!!


FIGURED THAT OUT ALL BY **YOURSELF**, HUH?
THEN YOU PROBABLY ALREADY **KNOW** THAT THE JOE WHO RODE HERE ON **TOP** OF YOUR TRUCK--
--IS THE **STUNT-MASTER**, ALL DRESSED UP IN **DAREDEVIL'S** DUDS!?
HEY--WON'T ANYBODY EVEN **ANSWER** A GUY?
PKOW!
THESE HOODS ARE ALL **ALIKE**, STUNTY!
THEY'RE SHORT ON **CONVERSATION** WHEN THE TALK DRIFTS BEYOND THE LATEST **PRISON BREAK!**
AND, SPEAKING OF **PRISON**--THE LOCAL **CONSTABULARY** JUST ARRIVED!
WHAT SAY WE FADE INTO THE NEAREST **SUNSET**, PAL?
FOR OBVIOUS REASONS--I'M WITH **YOU!**
THEN, IN A MORE SECLUDED SPOT...
...I FEEL **BETTER** NOW, IN MY **OWN** THREADS!
I--I'M GLAD YOU TALKED SOME **SENSE** INTO ME BACK THERE WHEN WE **CRASHED!**
SO AM **I**--BUT KEEP THAT **HEAD** TURNED, OKAY?
AS IT IS, YOU'VE COMMITTED **NO** CRIME--JUST HELPED **STOP** ONE!
YOUR **PAROLE BOARD** IS REALLY GONNA **EAT THIS UP**--
--AND **SO**, IT WOULD SEEM, WILL THE **SIX O'CLOCK NEWS!**
A FEW NIGHTS LATER, IN A CERTAIN LOW-BUDGET HOTEL ROOM...
MY OLD SPARRING PARTNER **EARNED** HIS BREAK--BUT THAT STILL LEAVES **ME** NOWHERE!
Variety
"STUNT-MASTER" A HERO--SIGNED FOR FALL SERIES
"A NATURAL!" SAYS VEEP
NEW SHOW TO DEAL WITH MASKED MOTORCYCLIST WHO HELPS PEOPLE IN TROUBLE
TOMORROW, I DO WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE **RIGHT AWAY!**
I'M LOOKING UP **SALLY WESTON**--TO SEE IF SHE KNOWS WHERE **KAREN** IS!
I JUST HOPE I HAVEN'T WAITED UNTIL IT'S--**TOO LATE**--!
NEXT:
BETTER LATE--OR NEVER?

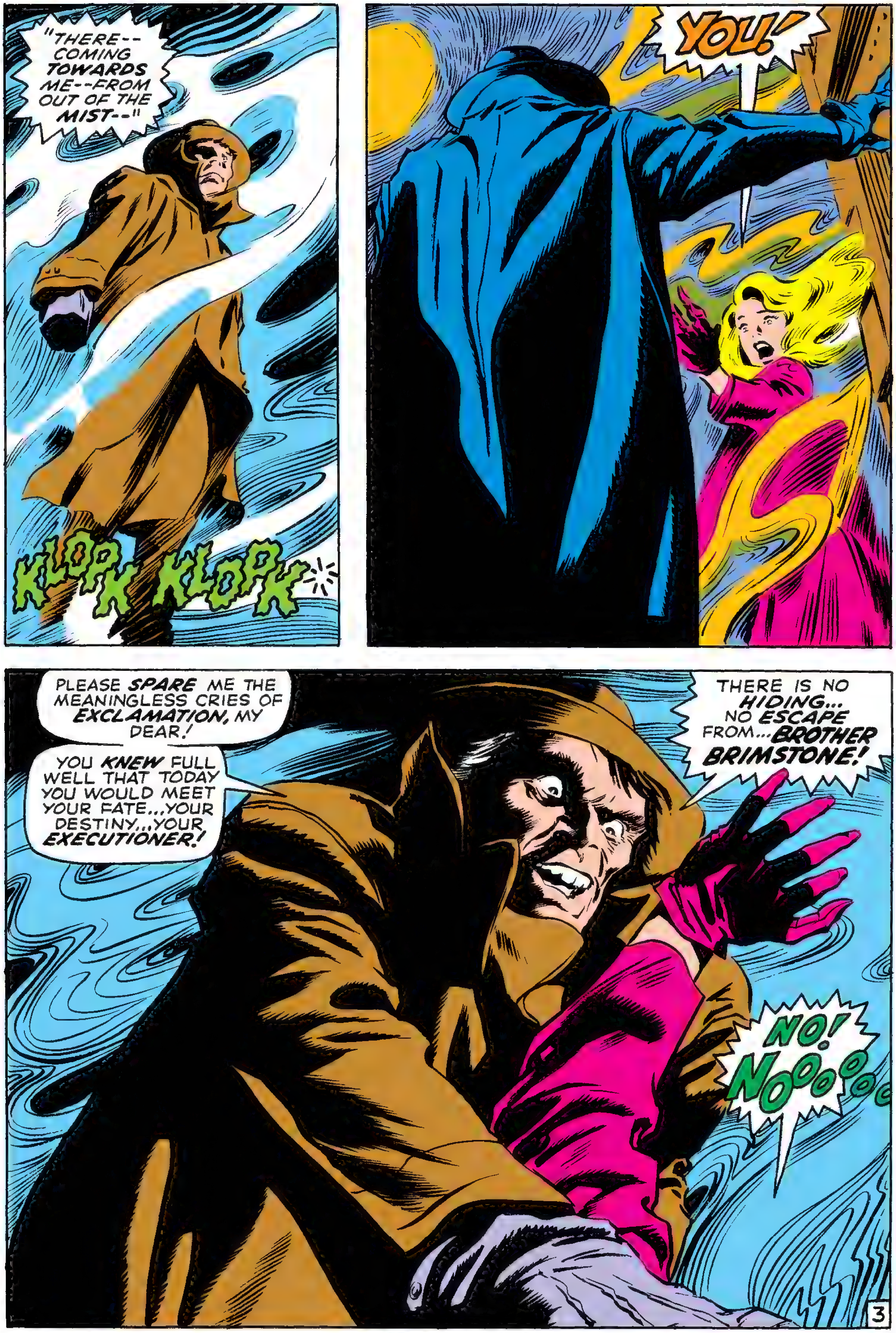
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
65
JUNE
CC
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KAREN'S DEAD... DEAD.. AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED HER!!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
JOHN ST.
BRO
THE MURDEROUS MENACE OF THE MAN CALLED BRIMSTONE!

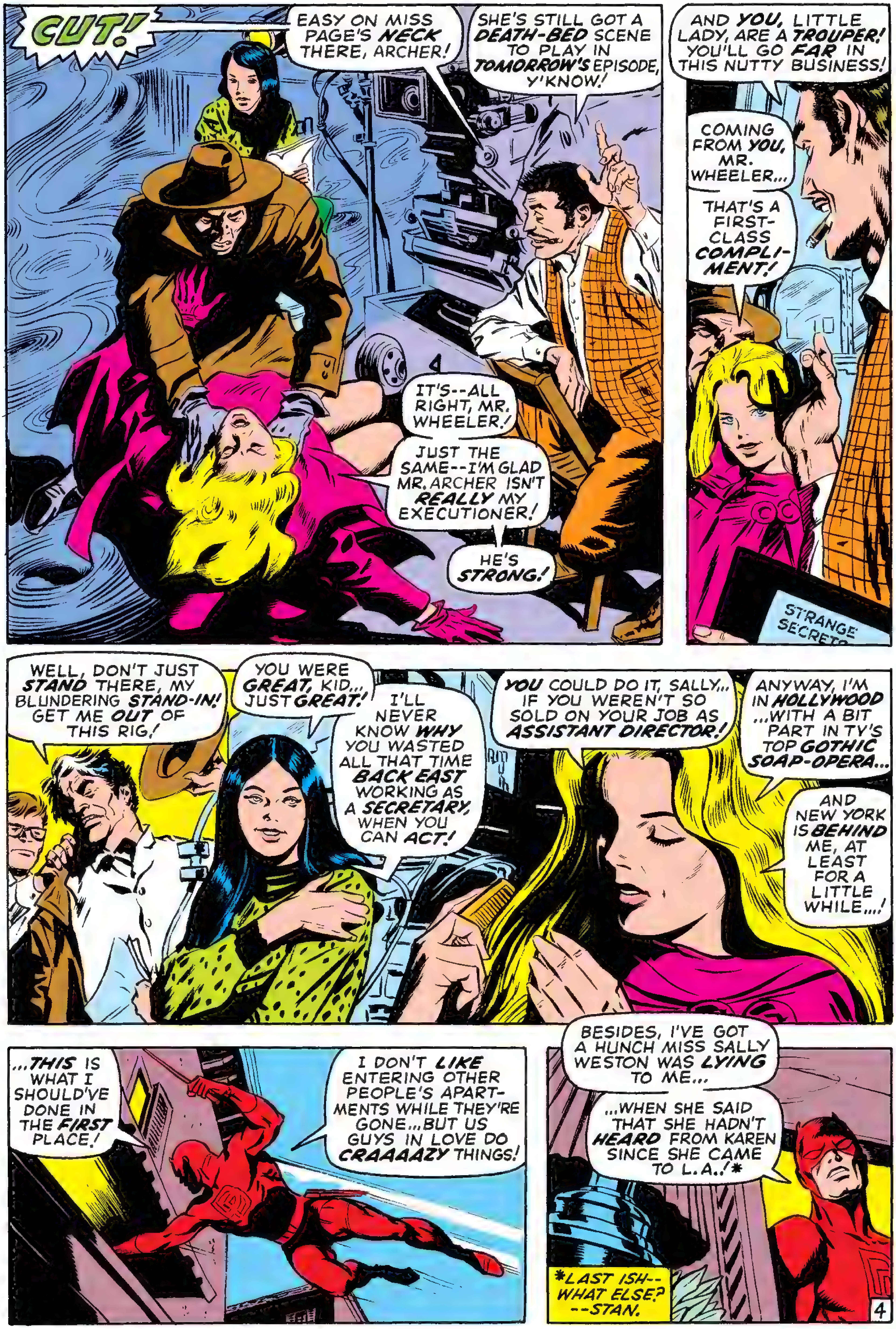
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

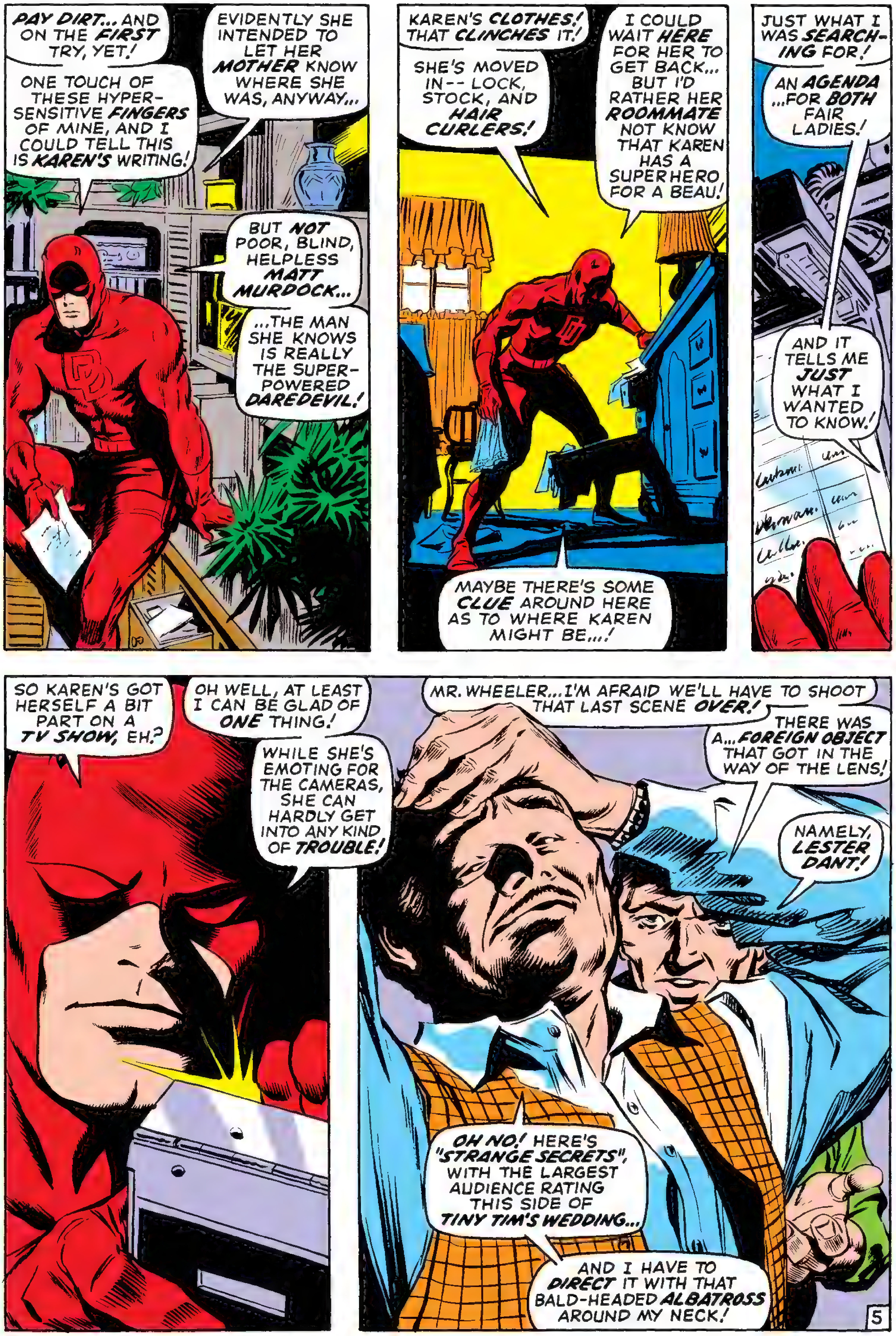
THE KILLING OF BROTHER BRIMSTONE

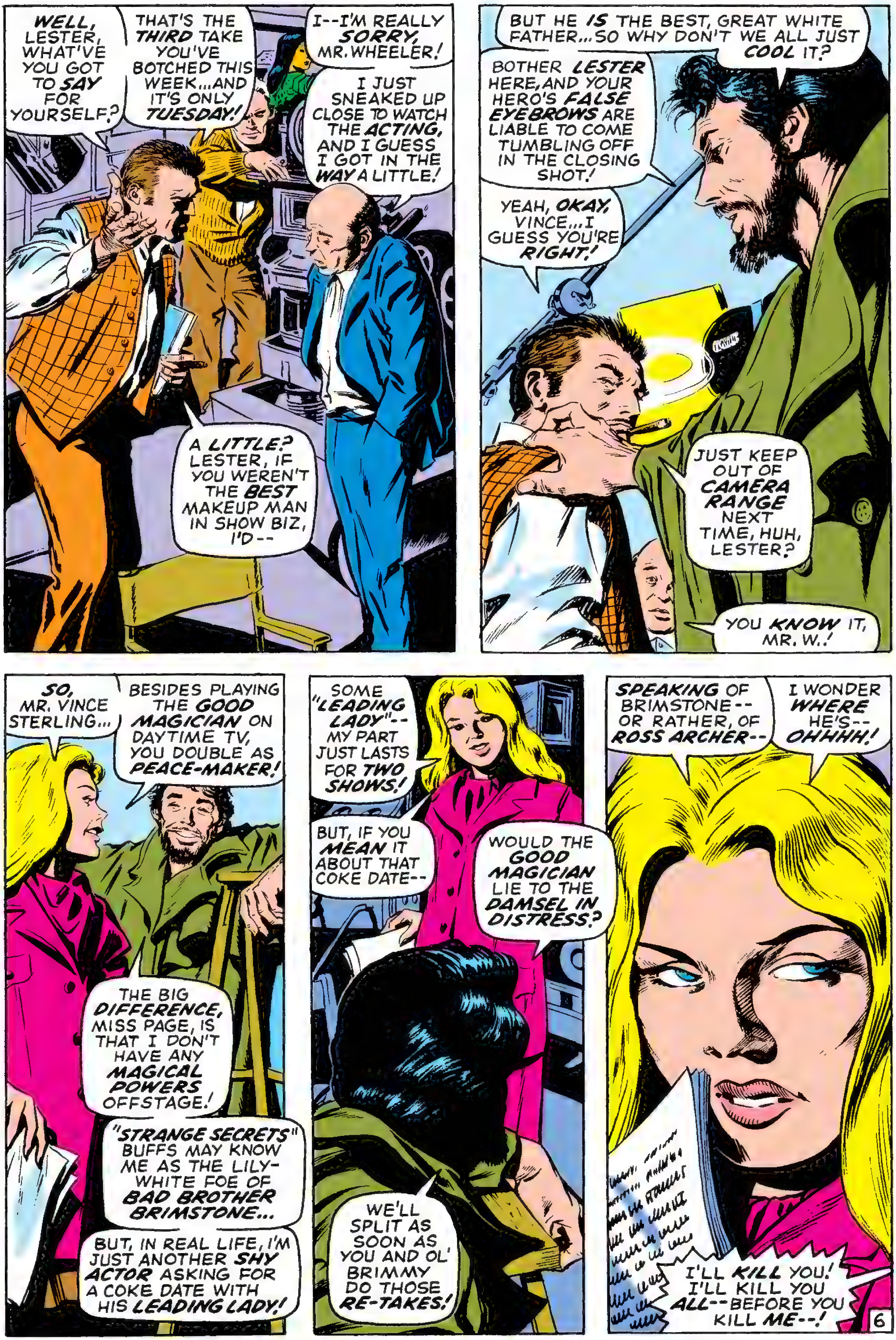

THE FOG COMES SWIRLING IN LIKE SOME SILENT, STALKING ANIMAL! AND DIRECTLY IN ITS RELENTLESS PATH IS-- KAREN PAGE--!
"THERE'S SOMEONE-- FOLLOWING ME!"
"I CAN'T HEAR HIM--BUT I CAN ALMOST FEEL HIS LURKING PRESENCE--!"
REST
KLIK
KLEK
KLIK
KL...
ENTER YE NOW INTO THE WORLD OF THE MYSTERIOUS AND THE MACABRE-- ESCORTED BY:
STAN LEE EDITOR • ROY THOMAS WRITER • GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES INKER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER

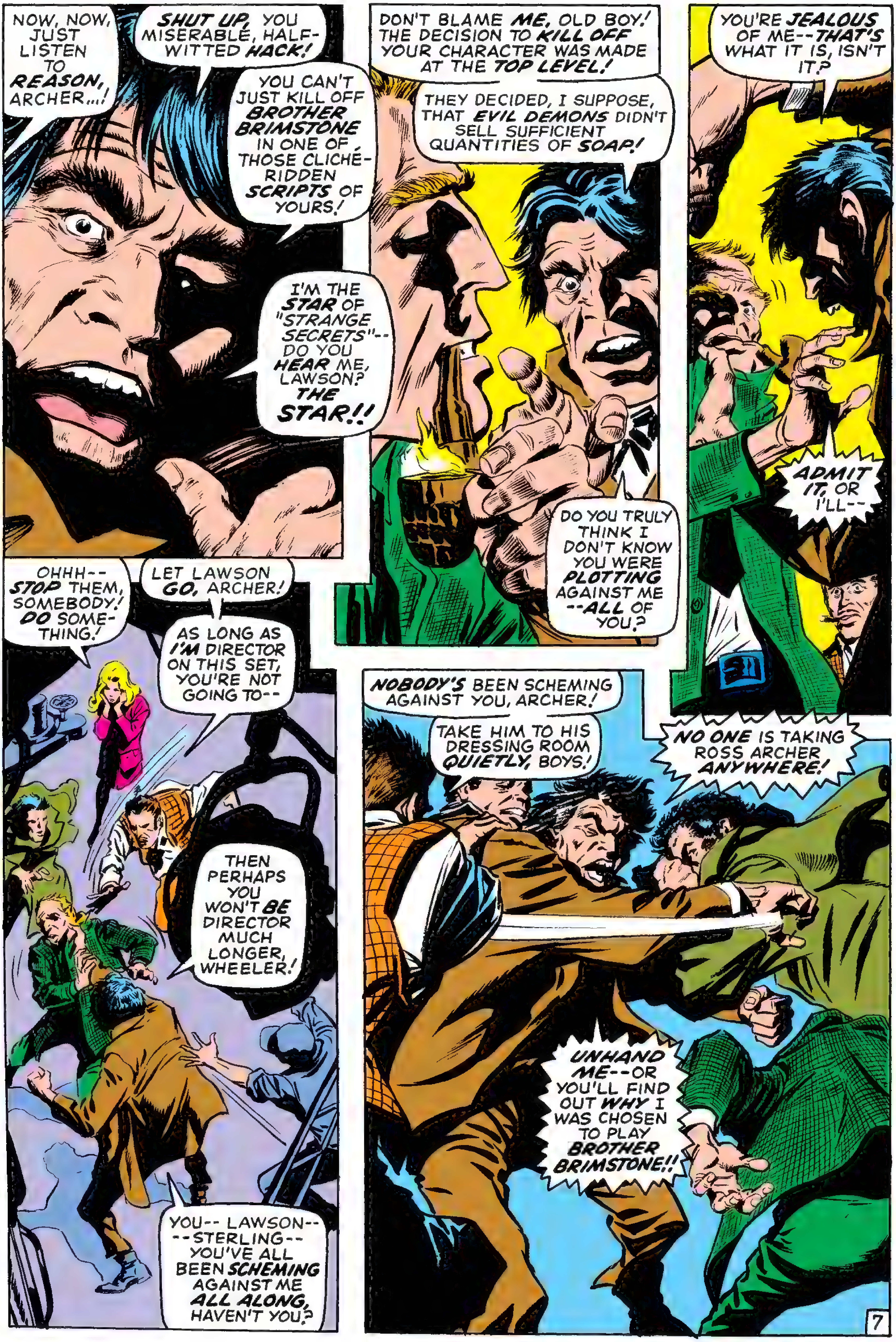
"WHAT IF IT'S--HE?"
"WHAT IF IT'S--THE ONE I FEAR??"
"WAIT! NOW I HEAR HIS FOOTSTEPS--COMING NEARER--NEARER!"
KLOPK KLOPK KLOPK KLOPK
KLOPK KLO
"NOW THEY'VE STOPPED--AS SUDDENLY AS THEY BEGAN!"
"DOES THAT MEAN--I'M SAFE?"
KLIK KLEK
"OR DOES IT MEAN, I'M NO LONGER HEADING AWAY FROM MY PURSUER--BUT TOWARDS HIM?"
"WHAT IF I'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND IN CIRCLES IN THIS FOG?"
KLIK KLEK KLIK KLEK

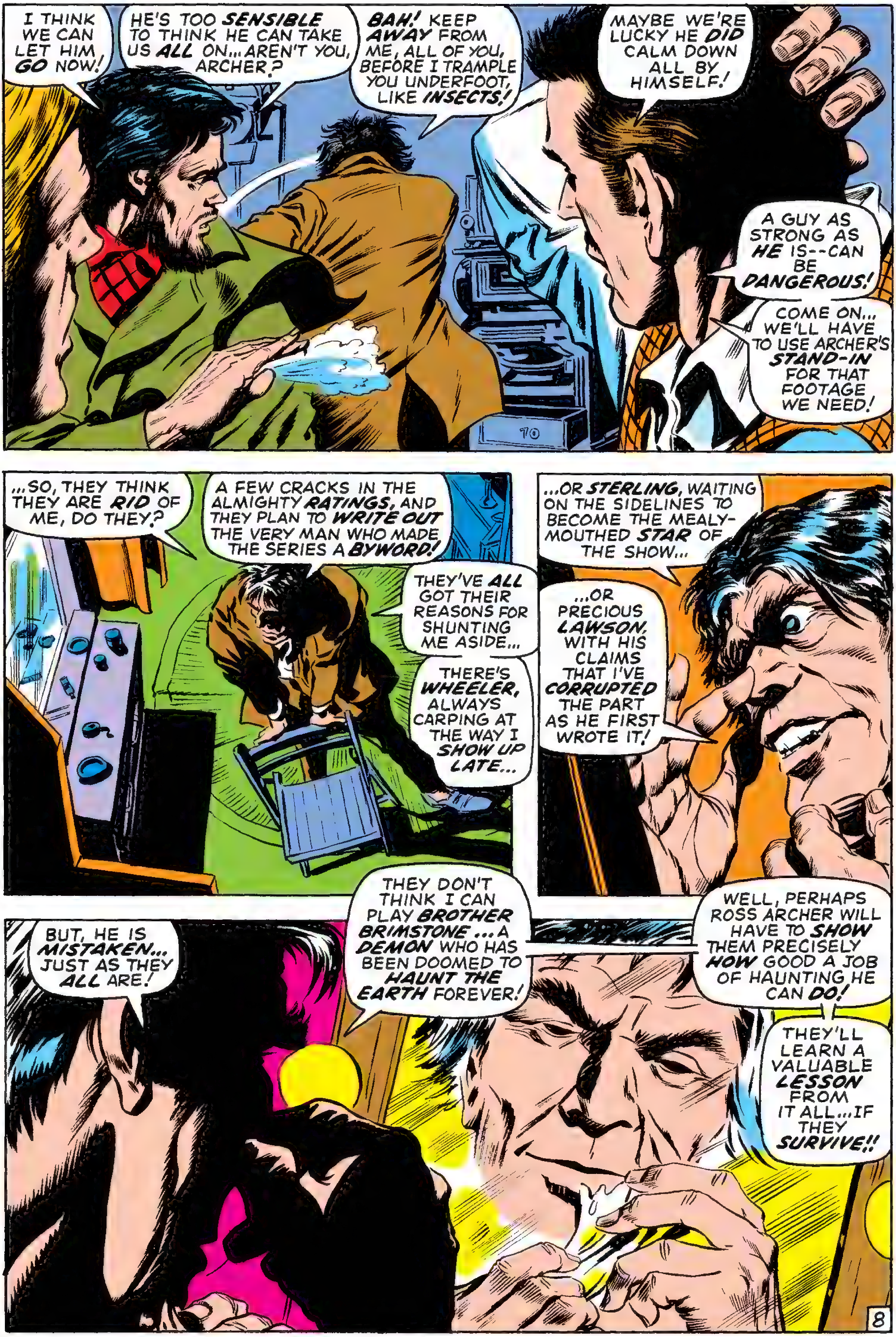

"THERE-- COMING TOWARDS ME--FROM OUT OF THE MIST--"
KLOPK KLOPK
YOU!
PLEASE SPARE ME THE MEANINGLESS CRIES OF EXCLAMATION, MY DEAR!
YOU KNEW FULL WELL THAT TODAY YOU WOULD MEET YOUR FATE...YOUR DESTINY...YOUR EXECUTIONER!
THERE IS NO HIDING... NO ESCAPE FROM...BROTHER BRIMSTONE!
NO! NOOOOOO

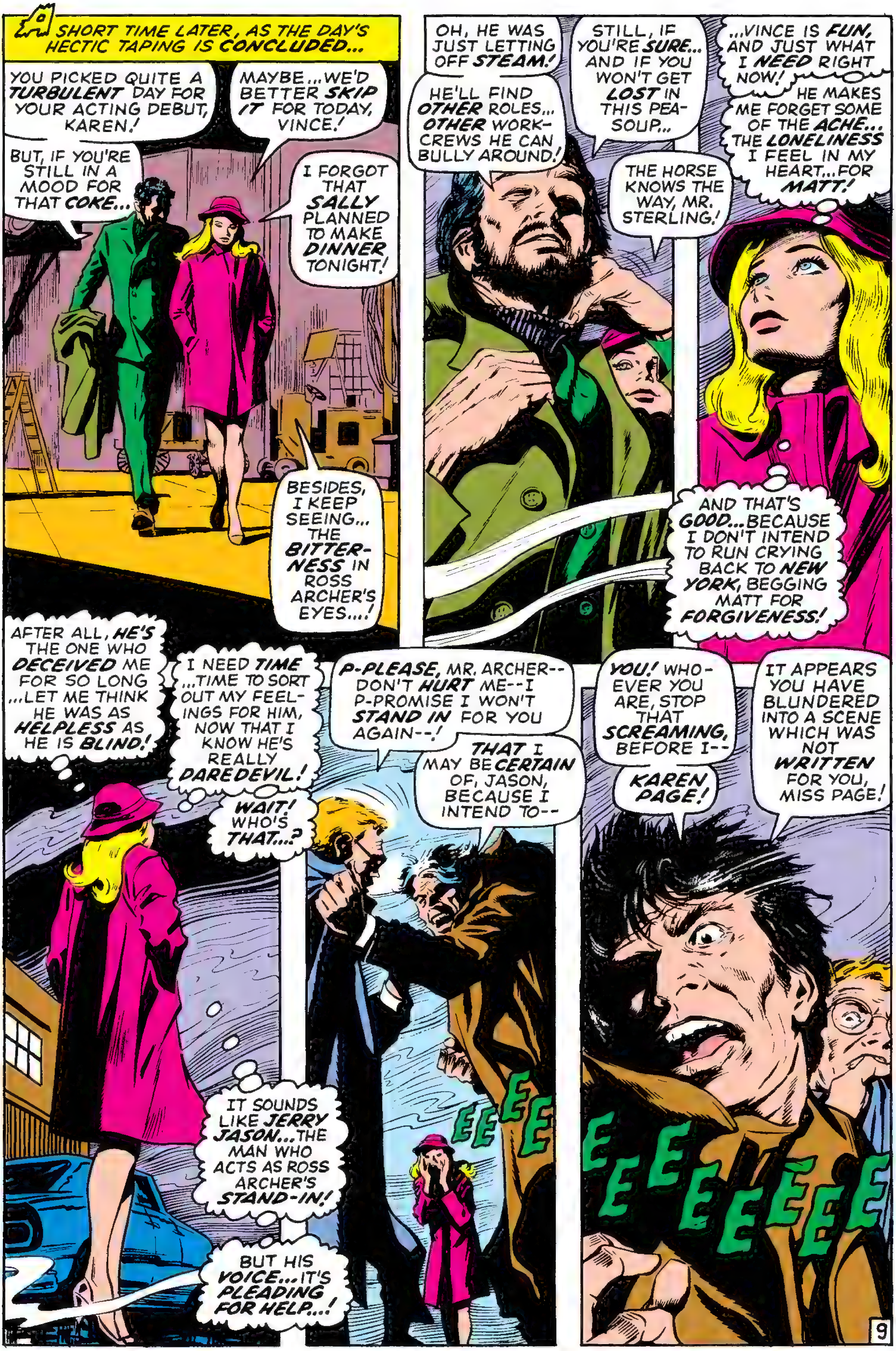

CUT!
EASY ON MISS PAGE'S NECK THERE, ARCHER!
SHE'S STILL GOT A DEATH-BED SCENE TO PLAY IN TOMORROW'S EPISODE, Y'KNOW!
IT'S--ALL RIGHT, MR. WHEELER!
JUST THE SAME--I'M GLAD MR. ARCHER ISN'T REALLY MY EXECUTIONER!
HE'S STRONG!
AND YOU, LITTLE LADY, ARE A TROUPER! YOU'LL GO FAR IN THIS NUTTY BUSINESS!
COMING FROM YOU, MR. WHEELER...
THAT'S A FIRST-CLASS COMPLIMENT!
STRANGE SECRETS
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, MY BLUNDERING STAND-IN! GET ME OUT OF THIS RIG!
YOU WERE GREAT, KID... JUST GREAT!
I'LL NEVER KNOW WHY YOU WASTED ALL THAT TIME BACK EAST WORKING AS A SECRETARY, WHEN YOU CAN ACT!
YOU COULD DO IT, SALLY... IF YOU WEREN'T SO SOLD ON YOUR JOB AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR!
ANYWAY, I'M IN HOLLYWOOD ...WITH A BIT PART IN TV'S TOP GOTHIC SOAP-OPERA...
AND NEW YORK IS BEHIND ME, AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE WHILE...!
...THIS IS WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I DON'T LIKE ENTERING OTHER PEOPLE'S APARTMENTS WHILE THEY'RE GONE... BUT US GUYS IN LOVE DO CRAAAAZY THINGS!
BESIDES, I'VE GOT A HUNCH MISS SALLY WESTON WAS LYING TO ME...
...WHEN SHE SAID THAT SHE HADN'T HEARD FROM KAREN SINCE SHE CAME TO L.A.!*
*LAST ISH--WHAT ELSE? --STAN.

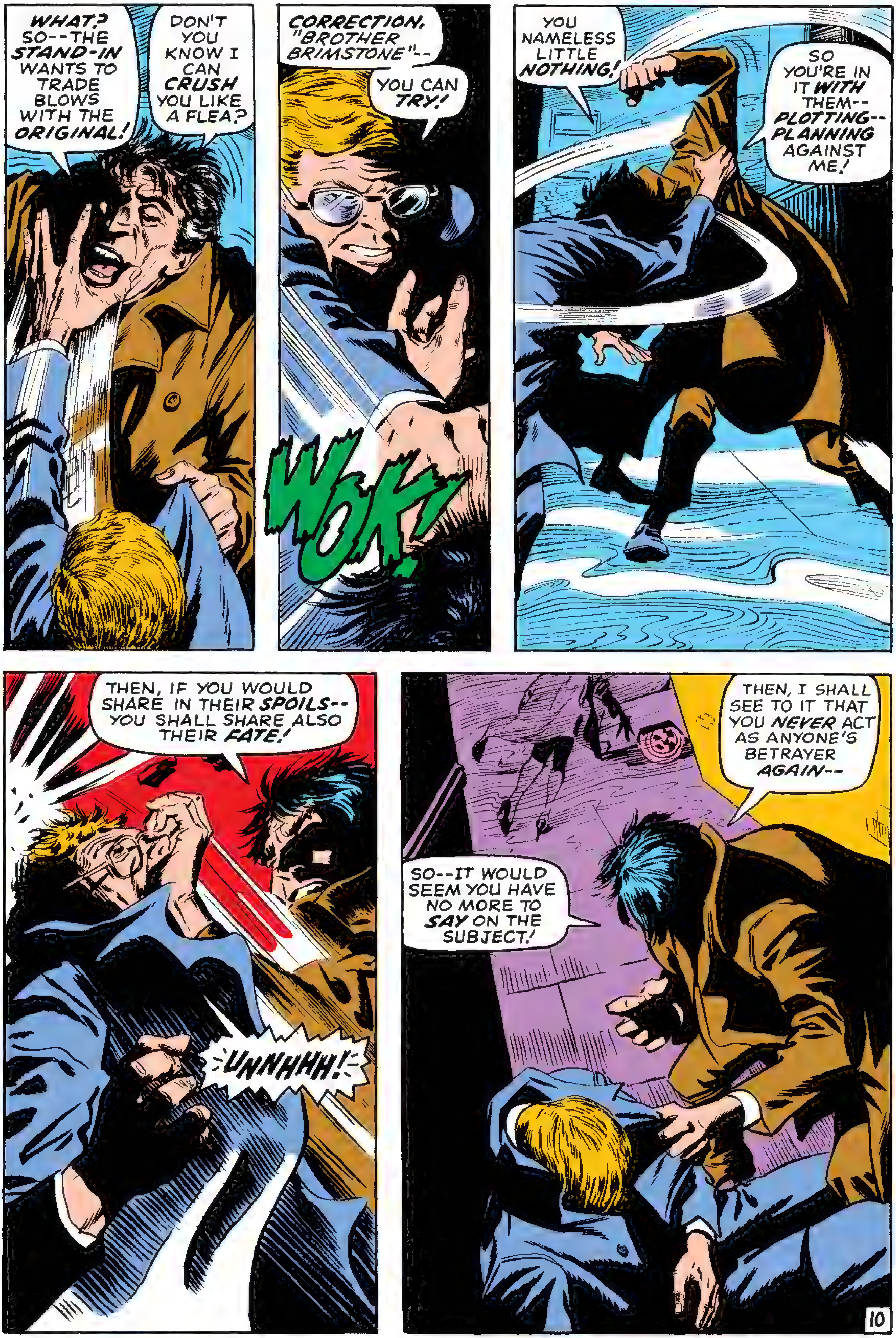

PAY DIRT... AND ON THE FIRST TRY, YET!
ONE TOUCH OF THESE HYPER-SENSITIVE FINGERS OF MINE, AND I COULD TELL THIS IS KAREN'S WRITING!
EVIDENTLY SHE INTENDED TO LET HER MOTHER KNOW WHERE SHE WAS, ANYWAY...
BUT NOT POOR, BLIND, HELPLESS MATT MURDOCK...
...THE MAN SHE KNOWS IS REALLY THE SUPER-POWERED DAREDEVIL!
KAREN'S CLOTHES! THAT CLINCHES IT!
SHE'S MOVED IN-- LOCK, STOCK, AND HAIR CURLERS!
I COULD WAIT HERE FOR HER TO GET BACK... BUT I'D RATHER HER ROOMMATE NOT KNOW THAT KAREN HAS A SUPER HERO FOR A BEAU!
MAYBE THERE'S SOME CLUE AROUND HERE AS TO WHERE KAREN MIGHT BE...!
JUST WHAT I WAS SEARCHING FOR!
AN AGENDA ...FOR BOTH FAIR LADIES!
AND IT TELLS ME JUST WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW!
SO KAREN'S GOT HERSELF A BIT PART ON A TV SHOW, EH?
OH WELL, AT LEAST I CAN BE GLAD OF ONE THING!
WHILE SHE'S EMOTING FOR THE CAMERAS, SHE CAN HARDLY GET INTO ANY KIND OF TROUBLE!
MR. WHEELER...I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO SHOOT THAT LAST SCENE OVER!
THERE WAS A...FOREIGN OBJECT THAT GOT IN THE WAY OF THE LENS!
NAMELY, LESTER DANT!
OH NO! HERE'S "STRANGE SECRETS", WITH THE LARGEST AUDIENCE RATING THIS SIDE OF TINY TIM'S WEDDING...
AND I HAVE TO DIRECT IT WITH THAT BALD-HEADED ALBATROSS AROUND MY NECK!

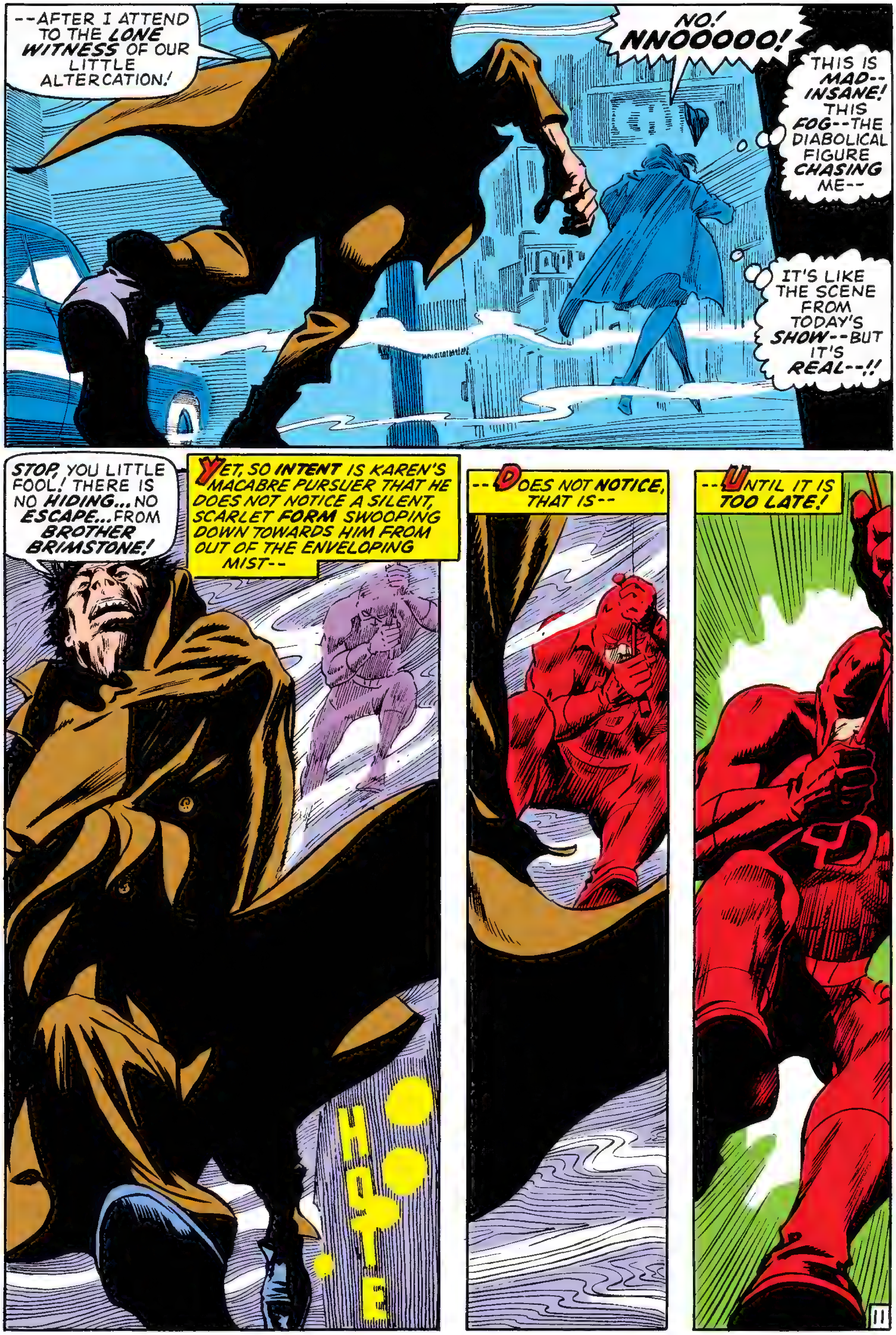

WELL, LESTER, WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
THAT'S THE THIRD TAKE YOU'VE BOTCHED THIS WEEK...AND IT'S ONLY TUESDAY!
I--I'M REALLY SORRY, MR. WHEELER!
I JUST SNEAKED UP CLOSE TO WATCH THE ACTING, AND I GUESS I GOT IN THE WAY A LITTLE!
A LITTLE? LESTER, IF YOU WEREN'T THE BEST MAKEUP MAN IN SHOW BIZ, I'D--
BUT HE IS THE BEST, GREAT WHITE FATHER...SO WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST COOL IT?
BOTHER LESTER HERE, AND YOUR HERO'S FALSE EYEBROWS ARE LIABLE TO COME TUMBLING OFF IN THE CLOSING SHOT!
YEAH, OKAY, VINCE...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!
JUST KEEP OUT OF CAMERA RANGE NEXT TIME, HUH, LESTER?
YOU KNOW IT, MR. W.!
SO, MR. VINCE STERLING...
BESIDES PLAYING THE GOOD MAGICIAN ON DAYTIME TV, YOU DOUBLE AS PEACE-MAKER!
THE BIG DIFFERENCE, MISS PAGE, IS THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY MAGICAL POWERS OFFSTAGE!
"STRANGE SECRETS" BUFFS MAY KNOW ME AS THE LILY-WHITE FOE OF BAD BROTHER BRIMSTONE...
BUT, IN REAL LIFE, I'M JUST ANOTHER SHY ACTOR ASKING FOR A COKE DATE WITH HIS LEADING LADY!
SOME "LEADING LADY"-- MY PART JUST LASTS FOR TWO SHOWS!
BUT, IF YOU MEAN IT ABOUT THAT COKE DATE--
WOULD THE GOOD MAGICIAN LIE TO THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS?
WE'LL SPLIT AS SOON AS YOU AND OL' BRIMMY DO THOSE RE-TAKES!
SPEAKING OF BRIMSTONE-- OR RATHER, OF ROSS ARCHER--
I WONDER WHERE HE'S-- OHHHH!
I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL KILL YOU ALL--BEFORE YOU KILL ME--!

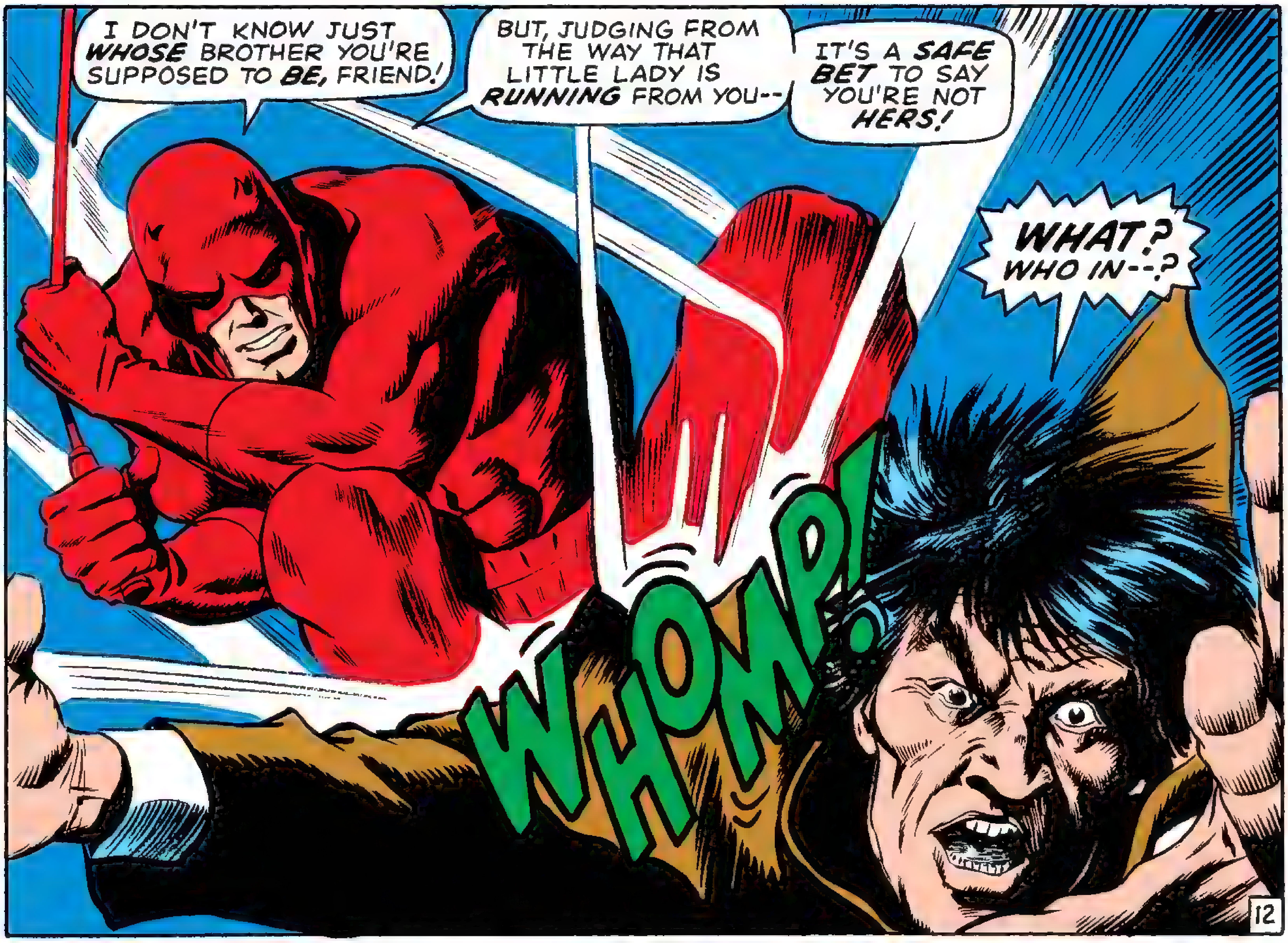

NOW, NOW, JUST LISTEN TO REASON, ARCHER...!
SHUT UP, YOU MISERABLE, HALF-WITTED HACK!
YOU CAN'T JUST KILL OFF BROTHER BRIMSTONE IN ONE OF THOSE CLICHÉ-RIDDEN SCRIPTS OF YOURS!
I'M THE STAR OF "STRANGE SECRETS"--DO YOU HEAR ME, LAWSON? THE STAR!!
DON'T BLAME ME, OLD BOY! THE DECISION TO KILL OFF YOUR CHARACTER WAS MADE AT THE TOP LEVEL!
THEY DECIDED, I SUPPOSE, THAT EVIL DEMONS DIDN'T SELL SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF SOAP!
DO YOU TRULY THINK I DON'T KNOW YOU WERE PLOTTING AGAINST ME--ALL OF YOU?
YOU'RE JEALOUS OF ME--THAT'S WHAT IT IS, ISN'T IT?
ADMIT IT, OR I'LL--
OHHH--STOP THEM, SOMEBODY! DO SOMETHING!
LET LAWSON GO, ARCHER!
AS LONG AS I'M DIRECTOR ON THIS SET, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO--
THEN PERHAPS YOU WON'T BE DIRECTOR MUCH LONGER, WHEELER!
YOU-- LAWSON-- --STERLING-- YOU'VE ALL BEEN SCHEMING AGAINST ME ALL ALONG, HAVEN'T YOU?
NOBODY'S BEEN SCHEMING AGAINST YOU, ARCHER!
TAKE HIM TO HIS DRESSING ROOM QUIETLY, BOYS!
NO ONE IS TAKING ROSS ARCHER ANYWHERE!
UNHAND ME--OR YOU'LL FIND OUT WHY I WAS CHOSEN TO PLAY BROTHER BRIMSTONE!!

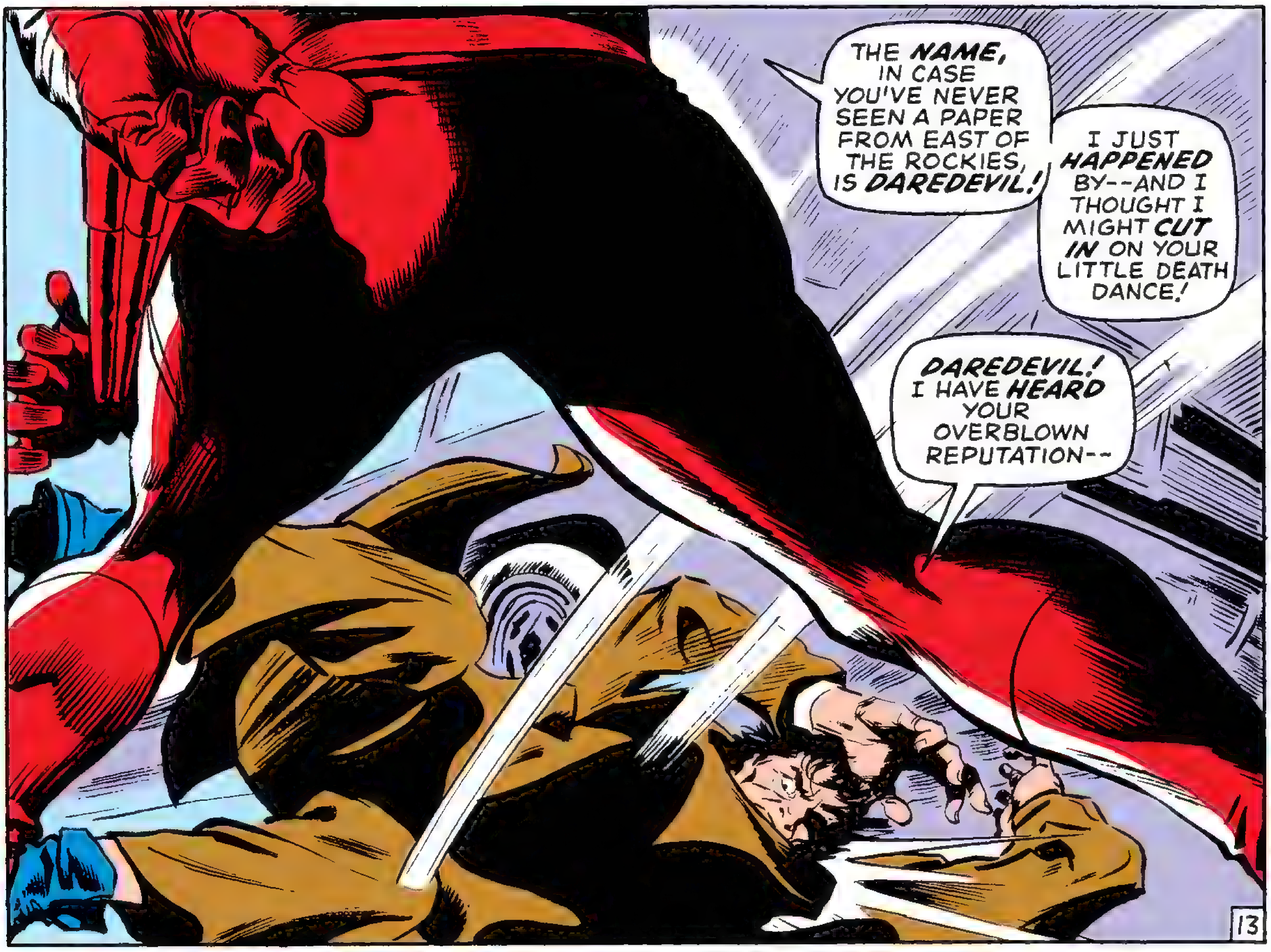

I THINK WE CAN LET HIM GO NOW!
HE'S TOO SENSIBLE TO THINK HE CAN TAKE US ALL ON... AREN'T YOU, ARCHER?
BAH! KEEP AWAY FROM ME, ALL OF YOU, BEFORE I TRAMPLE YOU UNDERFOOT, LIKE INSECTS!
MAYBE WE'RE LUCKY HE DID CALM DOWN ALL BY HIMSELF!
A GUY AS STRONG AS HE IS--CAN BE DANGEROUS!
COME ON... WE'LL HAVE TO USE ARCHER'S STAND-IN FOR THAT FOOTAGE WE NEED!
...SO, THEY THINK THEY ARE RID OF ME, DO THEY?
A FEW CRACKS IN THE ALMIGHTY RATINGS, AND THEY PLAN TO WRITE OUT THE VERY MAN WHO MADE THE SERIES A BYWORD!
THEY'VE ALL GOT THEIR REASONS FOR SHUNTING ME ASIDE...
THERE'S WHEELER, ALWAYS CARPING AT THE WAY I SHOW UP LATE...
...OR STERLING, WAITING ON THE SIDELINES TO BECOME THE MEALY-MOUTHED STAR OF THE SHOW...
...OR PRECIOUS LAWSON, WITH HIS CLAIMS THAT I'VE CORRUPTED THE PART AS HE FIRST WROTE IT!
BUT, HE IS MISTAKEN... JUST AS THEY ALL ARE!
THEY DON'T THINK I CAN PLAY BROTHER BRIMSTONE ... A DEMON WHO HAS BEEN DOOMED TO HAUNT THE EARTH FOREVER!
WELL, PERHAPS ROSS ARCHER WILL HAVE TO SHOW THEM PRECISELY HOW GOOD A JOB OF HAUNTING HE CAN DO!
THEY'LL LEARN A VALUABLE LESSON FROM IT ALL... IF THEY SURVIVE!!

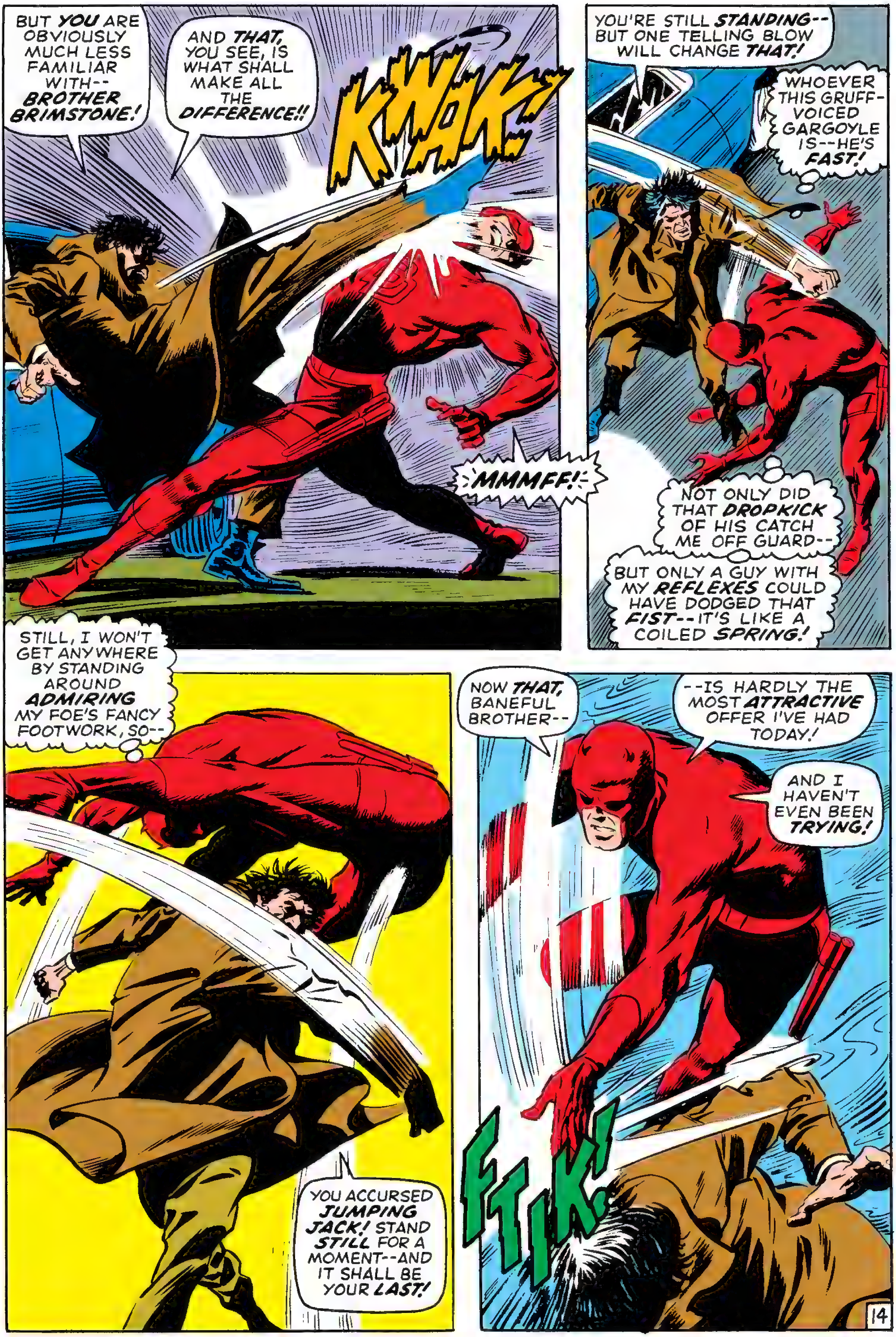

A SHORT TIME LATER, AS THE DAY'S HECTIC TAPING IS CONCLUDED...
YOU PICKED QUITE A TURBULENT DAY FOR YOUR ACTING DEBUT, KAREN!
BUT, IF YOU'RE STILL IN A MOOD FOR THAT COKE...
MAYBE...WE'D BETTER SKIP IT FOR TODAY, VINCE!
I FORGOT THAT SALLY PLANNED TO MAKE DINNER TONIGHT!
BESIDES, I KEEP SEEING... THE BITTERNESS IN ROSS ARCHER'S EYES...!
OH, HE WAS JUST LETTING OFF STEAM!
HE'LL FIND OTHER ROLES... OTHER WORK-CREWS HE CAN BULLY AROUND!
STILL, IF YOU'RE SURE... AND IF YOU WON'T GET LOST IN THIS PEA-SOUP...
THE HORSE KNOWS THE WAY, MR. STERLING!
...VINCE IS FUN, AND JUST WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW! HE MAKES ME FORGET SOME OF THE ACHE... THE LONELINESS I FEEL IN MY HEART...FOR MATT!
AND THAT'S GOOD...BECAUSE I DON'T INTEND TO RUN CRYING BACK TO NEW YORK, BEGGING MATT FOR FORGIVENESS!
AFTER ALL, HE'S THE ONE WHO DECEIVED ME FOR SO LONG ...LET ME THINK HE WAS AS HELPLESS AS HE IS BLIND!
I NEED TIME ...TIME TO SORT OUT MY FEELINGS FOR HIM, NOW THAT I KNOW HE'S REALLY DAREDEVIL!
WAIT! WHO'S THAT...?
IT SOUNDS LIKE JERRY JASON...THE MAN WHO ACTS AS ROSS ARCHER'S STAND-IN!
BUT HIS VOICE...IT'S PLEADING FOR HELP...!
P-PLEASE, MR. ARCHER--DON'T HURT ME--I P-PROMISE I WON'T STAND IN FOR YOU AGAIN--!
THAT I MAY BE CERTAIN OF, JASON, BECAUSE I INTEND TO--
EEEE
YOU! WHOEVER YOU ARE, STOP THAT SCREAMING, BEFORE I--
KAREN PAGE!
IT APPEARS YOU HAVE BLUNDERED INTO A SCENE WHICH WAS NOT WRITTEN FOR YOU, MISS PAGE!
EEEEEEEEEEE

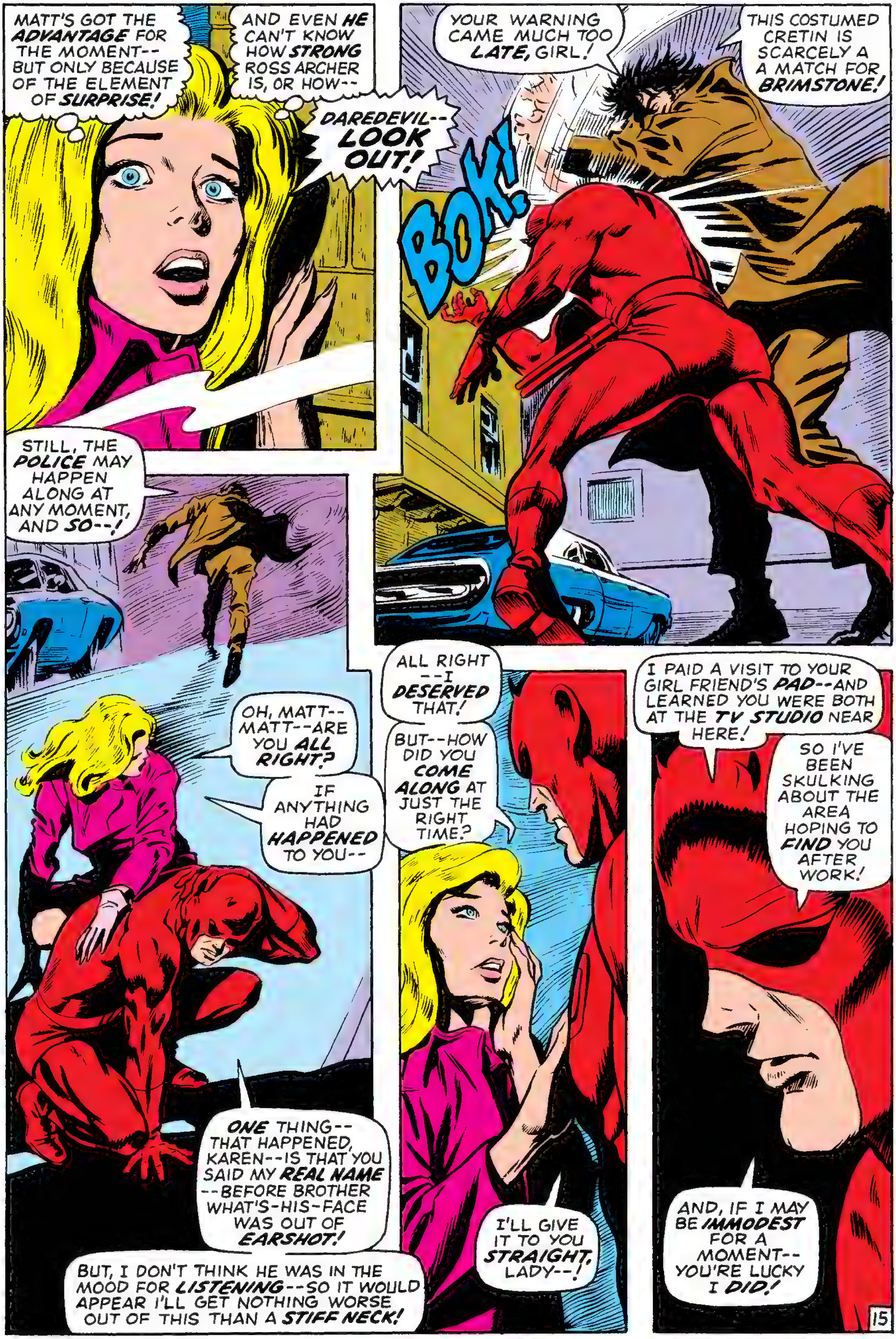

WHAT? SO--THE STAND-IN WANTS TO TRADE BLOWS WITH THE ORIGINAL!
DON'T YOU KNOW I CAN CRUSH YOU LIKE A FLEA?
CORRECTION, "BROTHER BRIMSTONE"--
YOU CAN TRY!
WOK!
YOU NAMELESS LITTLE NOTHING!
SO YOU'RE IN IT WITH THEM--PLOTTING--PLANNING AGAINST ME!
THEN, IF YOU WOULD SHARE IN THEIR SPOILS--YOU SHALL SHARE ALSO THEIR FATE!
UNNHHH!
THEN, I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT YOU NEVER ACT AS ANYONE'S BETRAYER AGAIN--
SO--IT WOULD SEEM YOU HAVE NO MORE TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT!

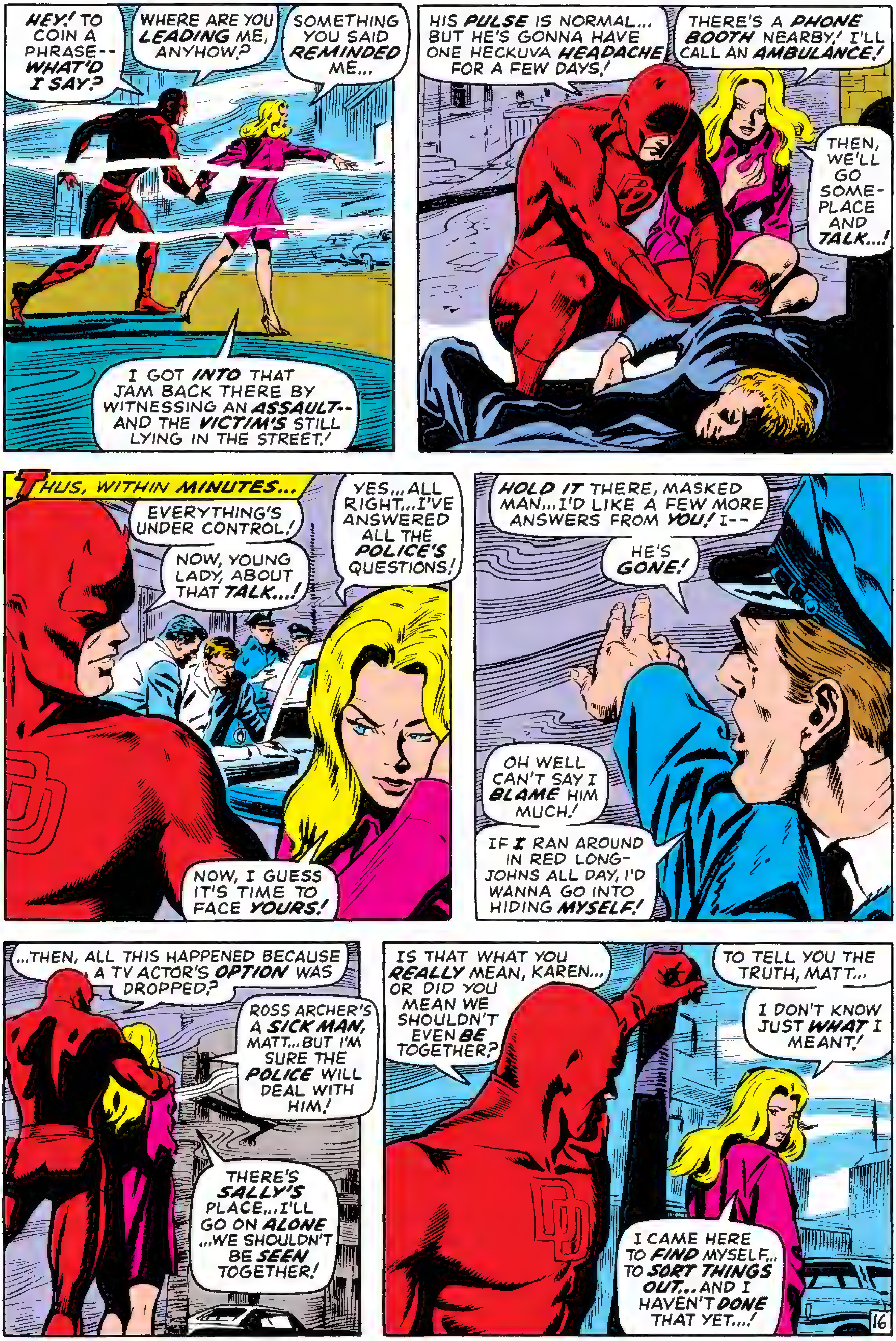

--AFTER I ATTEND TO THE **LONE WITNESS** OF OUR LITTLE ALTERCATION!
NO! **NNOOOOO!**
THIS IS ***MAD--INSANE!*** THIS ***FOG***--THE DIABOLICAL FIGURE ***CHASING*** ME--
IT'S LIKE THE SCENE FROM TODAY'S ***SHOW***--BUT IT'S ***REAL***--!!
STOP, YOU LITTLE FOOL! THERE IS NO ***HIDING...*** NO ***ESCAPE...*** FROM ***BROTHER BRIMSTONE!***
*YET, SO **INTENT** IS KAREN'S MACABRE PURSUER THAT HE DOES NOT NOTICE A SILENT, SCARLET **FORM** SWOOPING DOWN TOWARDS HIM FROM OUT OF THE ENVELOPING MIST--*
--*DOES NOT **NOTICE,** THAT IS--*
--*UNTIL IT IS **TOO LATE!***


I DON'T KNOW JUST *WHOSE* BROTHER YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO *BE,* FRIEND!
BUT, JUDGING FROM THE WAY THAT LITTLE LADY IS *RUNNING* FROM YOU--
IT'S A *SAFE BET* TO SAY YOU'RE NOT *HERS!*
WHAT? WHO IN--?
WHOMP!
12


THE *NAME,* IN CASE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A PAPER FROM EAST OF THE ROCKIES, IS *DAREDEVIL!*
I JUST *HAPPENED* BY--AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT *CUT IN* ON YOUR LITTLE DEATH DANCE!
DAREDEVIL! I HAVE *HEARD* YOUR OVERBLOWN REPUTATION--
13


BUT **YOU** ARE OBVIOUSLY MUCH LESS FAMILIAR WITH-- **BROTHER BRIMSTONE!**
AND **THAT**, YOU SEE, IS WHAT SHALL MAKE ALL THE **DIFFERENCE!!**
KWAK!
MMMFF!
YOU'RE STILL **STANDING**-- BUT ONE TELLING BLOW WILL CHANGE **THAT!**
WHOEVER THIS GRUFF-VOICED GARGOYLE IS--HE'S **FAST!**
NOT ONLY DID THAT **DROPKICK** OF HIS CATCH ME OFF GUARD--
BUT ONLY A GUY WITH MY **REFLEXES** COULD HAVE DODGED THAT **FIST**--IT'S LIKE A COILED **SPRING!**
STILL, I WON'T GET ANYWHERE BY STANDING AROUND **ADMIRING** MY FOE'S FANCY FOOTWORK, SO--
YOU ACCURSED **JUMPING JACK!** STAND **STILL** FOR A MOMENT--AND IT SHALL BE YOUR **LAST!**
NOW **THAT**, BANEFUL BROTHER--
--IS HARDLY THE MOST **ATTRACTIVE** OFFER I'VE HAD TODAY!
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN **TRYING!**
FTIK!


MATT'S GOT THE ADVANTAGE FOR THE MOMENT-- BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!
AND EVEN HE CAN'T KNOW HOW STRONG ROSS ARCHER IS, OR HOW--
DAREDEVIL-- LOOK OUT!
YOUR WARNING CAME MUCH TOO LATE, GIRL!
THIS COSTUMED CRETIN IS SCARCELY A A MATCH FOR BRIMSTONE!
BOK!
STILL, THE POLICE MAY HAPPEN ALONG AT ANY MOMENT, AND SO--!
OH, MATT-- MATT--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU--
ONE THING-- THAT HAPPENED, KAREN--IS THAT YOU SAID MY REAL NAME --BEFORE BROTHER WHAT'S-HIS-FACE WAS OUT OF EARSHOT!
BUT, I DON'T THINK HE WAS IN THE MOOD FOR LISTENING--SO IT WOULD APPEAR I'LL GET NOTHING WORSE OUT OF THIS THAN A STIFF NECK!
ALL RIGHT --I DESERVED THAT!
BUT--HOW DID YOU COME ALONG AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME?
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, LADY--!
I PAID A VISIT TO YOUR GIRL FRIEND'S PAD--AND LEARNED YOU WERE BOTH AT THE TV STUDIO NEAR HERE!
SO I'VE BEEN SKULKING ABOUT THE AREA HOPING TO FIND YOU AFTER WORK!
AND, IF I MAY BE IMMODEST FOR A MOMENT-- YOU'RE LUCKY I DID!


HEY! TO COIN A PHRASE--WHAT'D I SAY?
WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME, ANYHOW?
SOMETHING YOU SAID REMINDED ME...
I GOT INTO THAT JAM BACK THERE BY WITNESSING AN ASSAULT--AND THE VICTIM'S STILL LYING IN THE STREET!
HIS PULSE IS NORMAL... BUT HE'S GONNA HAVE ONE HECKUVA HEADACHE FOR A FEW DAYS!
THERE'S A PHONE BOOTH NEARBY! I'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE!
THEN, WE'LL GO SOMEPLACE AND TALK...!
THUS, WITHIN MINUTES...
EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL!
NOW, YOUNG LADY, ABOUT THAT TALK...!
YES... ALL RIGHT... I'VE ANSWERED ALL THE POLICE'S QUESTIONS!
NOW, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO FACE YOURS!
HOLD IT THERE, MASKED MAN... I'D LIKE A FEW MORE ANSWERS FROM YOU! I--
HE'S GONE!
OH WELL CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM MUCH!
IF I RAN AROUND IN RED LONG-JOHNS ALL DAY, I'D WANNA GO INTO HIDING MYSELF!
...THEN, ALL THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE A TV ACTOR'S OPTION WAS DROPPED?
ROSS ARCHER'S A SICK MAN, MATT... BUT I'M SURE THE POLICE WILL DEAL WITH HIM!
THERE'S SALLY'S PLACE... I'LL GO ON ALONE ...WE SHOULDN'T BE SEEN TOGETHER!
IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN, KAREN... OR DID YOU MEAN WE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE TOGETHER?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MATT...
I DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT I MEANT!
I CAME HERE TO FIND MYSELF... TO SORT THINGS OUT... AND I HAVEN'T DONE THAT YET...!
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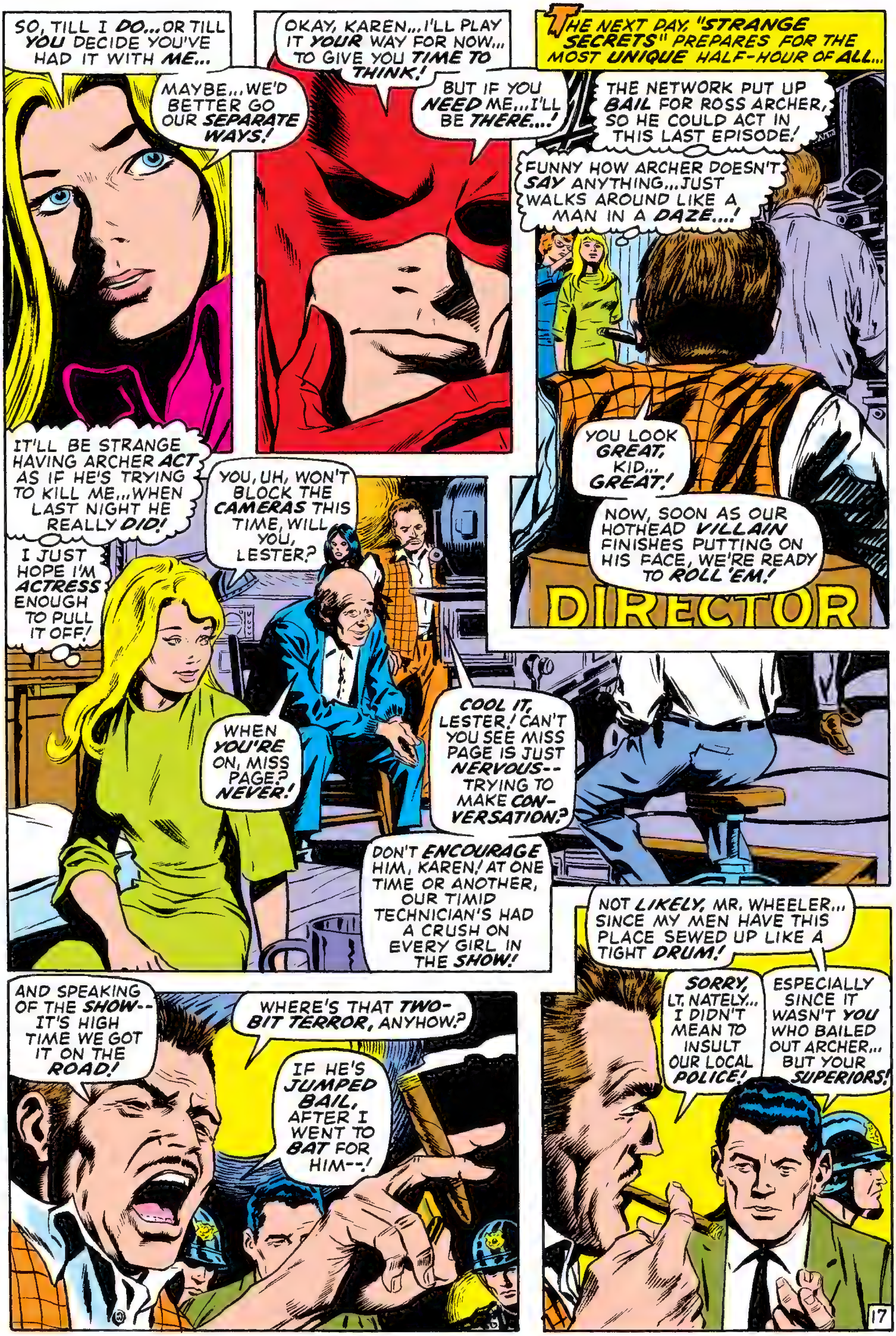
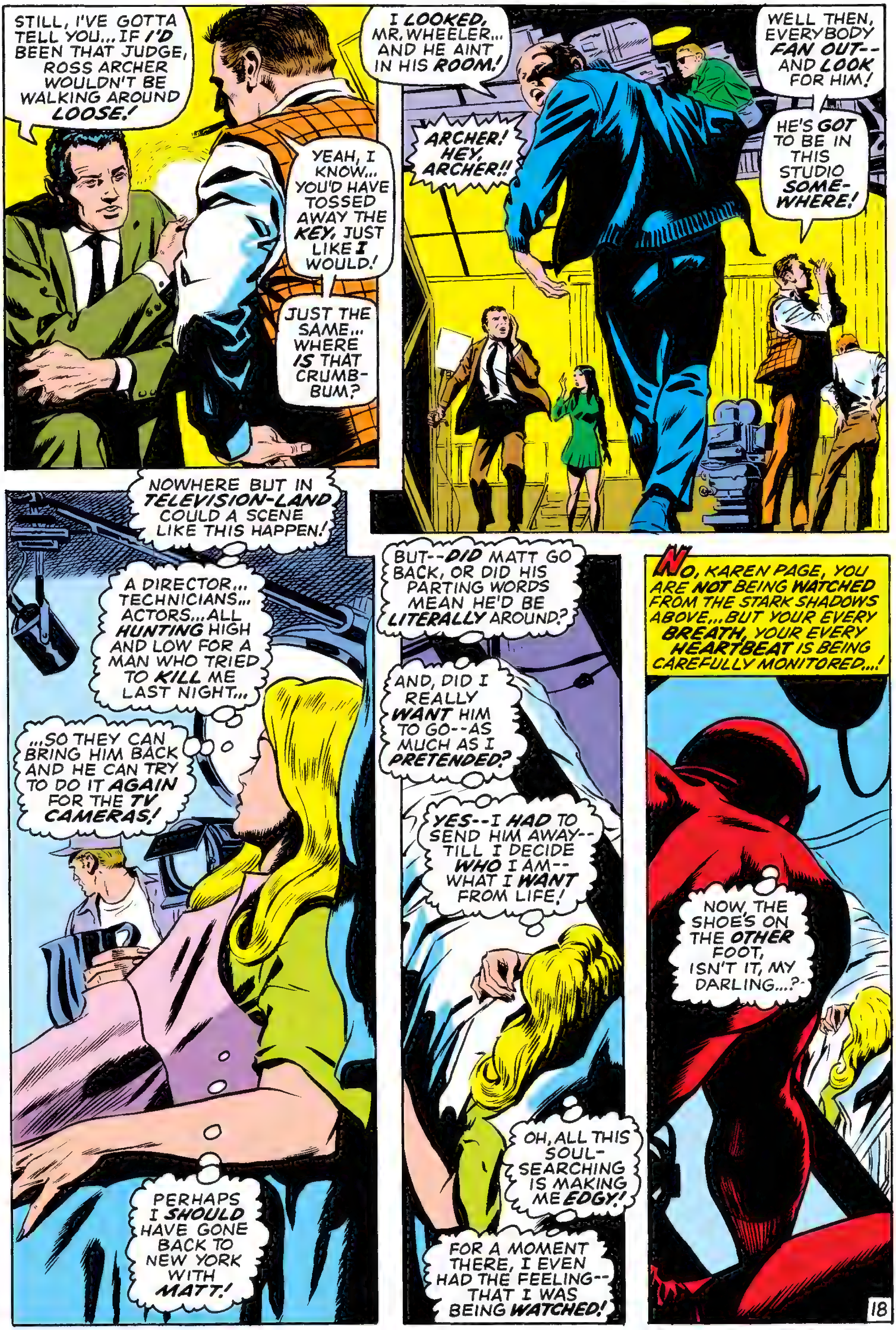
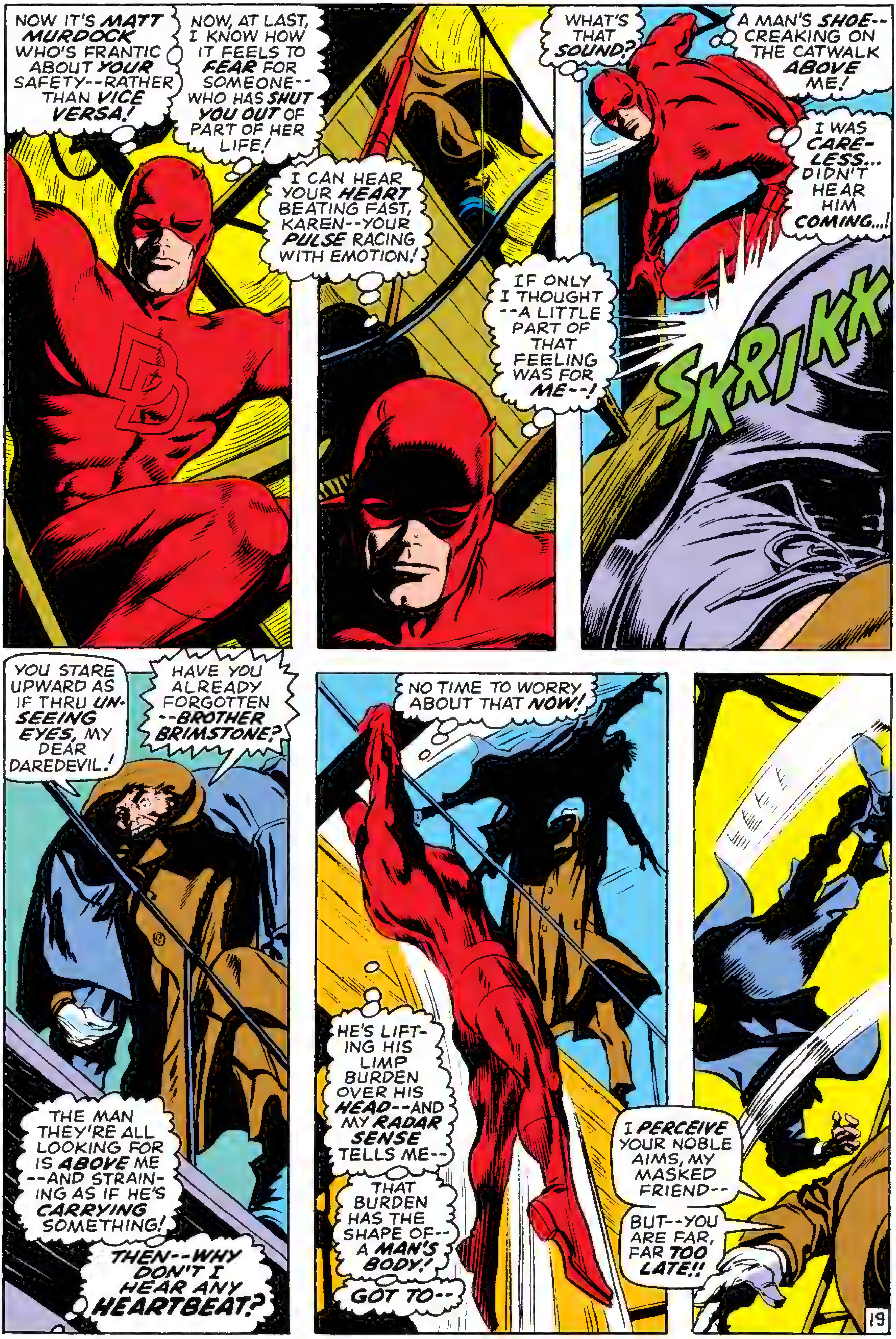
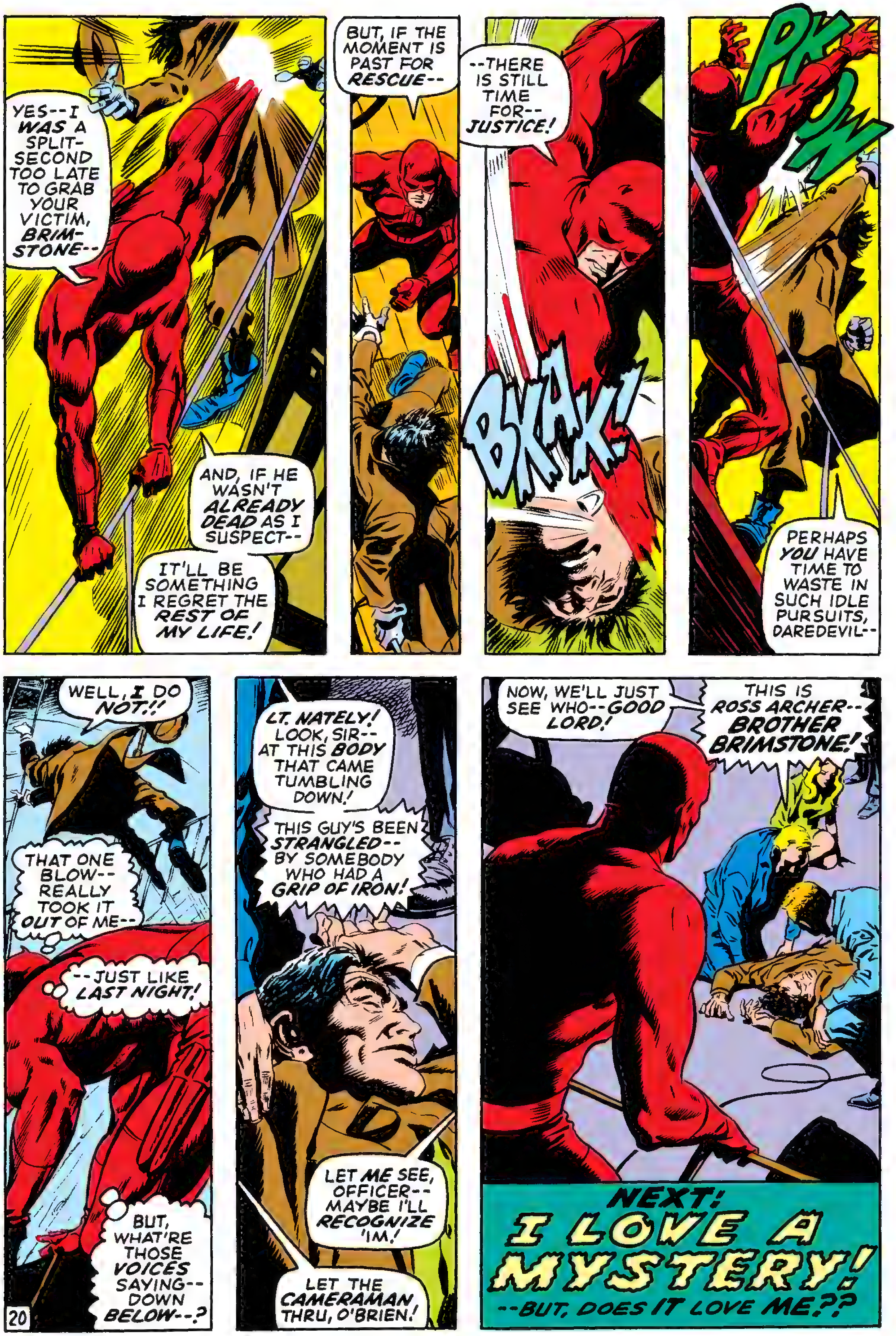

SO, TILL I DO...OR TILL YOU DECIDE YOU'VE HAD IT WITH ME...
MAYBE...WE'D BETTER GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS!
OKAY, KAREN...I'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY FOR NOW... TO GIVE YOU TIME TO THINK!
BUT IF YOU NEED ME...I'LL BE THERE...!
THE NEXT DAY, "STRANGE SECRETS" PREPARES FOR THE MOST UNIQUE HALF-HOUR OF ALL...
THE NETWORK PUT UP BAIL FOR ROSS ARCHER, SO HE COULD ACT IN THIS LAST EPISODE!
FUNNY HOW ARCHER DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING...JUST WALKS AROUND LIKE A MAN IN A DAZE...!
YOU LOOK GREAT, KID... GREAT!
NOW, SOON AS OUR HOTHEAD VILLAIN FINISHES PUTTING ON HIS FACE, WE'RE READY TO ROLL 'EM!
DIRECTOR
IT'LL BE STRANGE HAVING ARCHER ACT AS IF HE'S TRYING TO KILL ME...WHEN LAST NIGHT HE REALLY DID!
I JUST HOPE I'M ACTRESS ENOUGH TO PULL IT OFF!
YOU, UH, WON'T BLOCK THE CAMERAS THIS TIME, WILL YOU, LESTER?
WHEN YOU'RE ON, MISS PAGE? NEVER!
COOL IT, LESTER! CAN'T YOU SEE MISS PAGE IS JUST NERVOUS-- TRYING TO MAKE CONVERSATION?
DON'T ENCOURAGE HIM, KAREN! AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, OUR TIMID TECHNICIAN'S HAD A CRUSH ON EVERY GIRL IN THE SHOW!
AND SPEAKING OF THE SHOW-- IT'S HIGH TIME WE GOT IT ON THE ROAD!
WHERE'S THAT TWO-BIT TERROR, ANYHOW?
IF HE'S JUMPED BAIL, AFTER I WENT TO BAT FOR HIM--!
NOT LIKELY, MR. WHEELER... SINCE MY MEN HAVE THIS PLACE SEWED UP LIKE A TIGHT DRUM!
SORRY, LT. NATELY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO INSULT OUR LOCAL POLICE!
ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WASN'T YOU WHO BAILED OUT ARCHER... BUT YOUR SUPERIORS!


STILL, I'VE GOTTA TELL YOU... IF *I'D* BEEN THAT JUDGE, ROSS ARCHER WOULDN'T BE WALKING AROUND *LOOSE!*
YEAH, I KNOW... YOU'D HAVE TOSSED AWAY THE *KEY,* JUST LIKE *I* WOULD!
JUST THE SAME... WHERE *IS* THAT CRUMB-BUM?
I *LOOKED,* MR. WHEELER... AND HE AINT IN HIS *ROOM!*
ARCHER! HEY, ARCHER!!
WELL THEN, EVERYBODY *FAN OUT--* AND *LOOK* FOR HIM!
HE'S *GOT* TO BE IN THIS STUDIO *SOMEWHERE!*
NOWHERE BUT IN *TELEVISION-LAND* COULD A SCENE LIKE THIS HAPPEN!
A DIRECTOR... TECHNICIANS... ACTORS... ALL *HUNTING* HIGH AND LOW FOR A MAN WHO TRIED TO *KILL* ME LAST NIGHT...
...SO THEY CAN BRING HIM BACK AND HE CAN TRY TO DO IT *AGAIN* FOR THE *TV CAMERAS!*
PERHAPS I *SHOULD* HAVE GONE BACK TO NEW YORK WITH *MATT!*
BUT--*DID* MATT GO BACK, OR DID HIS PARTING WORDS MEAN HE'D BE *LITERALLY* AROUND?
AND, DID I REALLY *WANT* HIM TO GO--AS MUCH AS I *PRETENDED?*
*YES--*I *HAD* TO SEND HIM AWAY--TILL I DECIDE *WHO* I AM--WHAT I *WANT* FROM LIFE!
OH, ALL THIS SOUL-SEARCHING IS MAKING ME *EDGY!*
FOR A MOMENT THERE, I EVEN HAD THE FEELING--THAT I WAS BEING *WATCHED!*
NO, KAREN PAGE, YOU ARE *NOT* BEING *WATCHED* FROM THE STARK SHADOWS ABOVE... BUT YOUR EVERY *BREATH,* YOUR EVERY *HEARTBEAT* IS BEING CAREFULLY MONITORED...!
NOW, THE SHOE'S ON THE *OTHER* FOOT, ISN'T IT, MY DARLING...?


NOW IT'S **MATT MURDOCK** WHO'S FRANTIC ABOUT **YOUR** SAFETY--RATHER THAN **VICE VERSA!**
NOW, AT LAST, I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO **FEAR** FOR SOMEONE--WHO HAS **SHUT YOU OUT** OF PART OF HER LIFE!
I CAN HEAR YOUR **HEART** BEATING FAST, KAREN--YOUR **PULSE** RACING WITH EMOTION!
IF ONLY I THOUGHT--A LITTLE PART OF THAT FEELING WAS FOR **ME**--!
WHAT'S THAT **SOUND?**
A MAN'S **SHOE**--CREAKING ON THE CATWALK **ABOVE** ME!
I WAS **CARELESS...** DIDN'T HEAR HIM **COMING...!**
SKRIKK
YOU STARE UPWARD AS IF THRU **UNSEEING EYES**, MY DEAR DAREDEVIL!
HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN --**BROTHER BRIMSTONE?**
THE MAN THEY'RE ALL LOOKING FOR IS **ABOVE** ME --AND STRAINING AS IF HE'S **CARRYING** SOMETHING!
THEN--WHY DON'T I HEAR ANY HEARTBEAT?
NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT **NOW!**
HE'S LIFTING HIS LIMP BURDEN OVER HIS **HEAD**--AND MY **RADAR SENSE** TELLS ME--
THAT BURDEN HAS THE SHAPE OF--A **MAN'S BODY!**
GOT TO--
I **PERCEIVE** YOUR NOBLE AIMS, MY MASKED FRIEND--
BUT--YOU ARE FAR, FAR **TOO LATE!!**

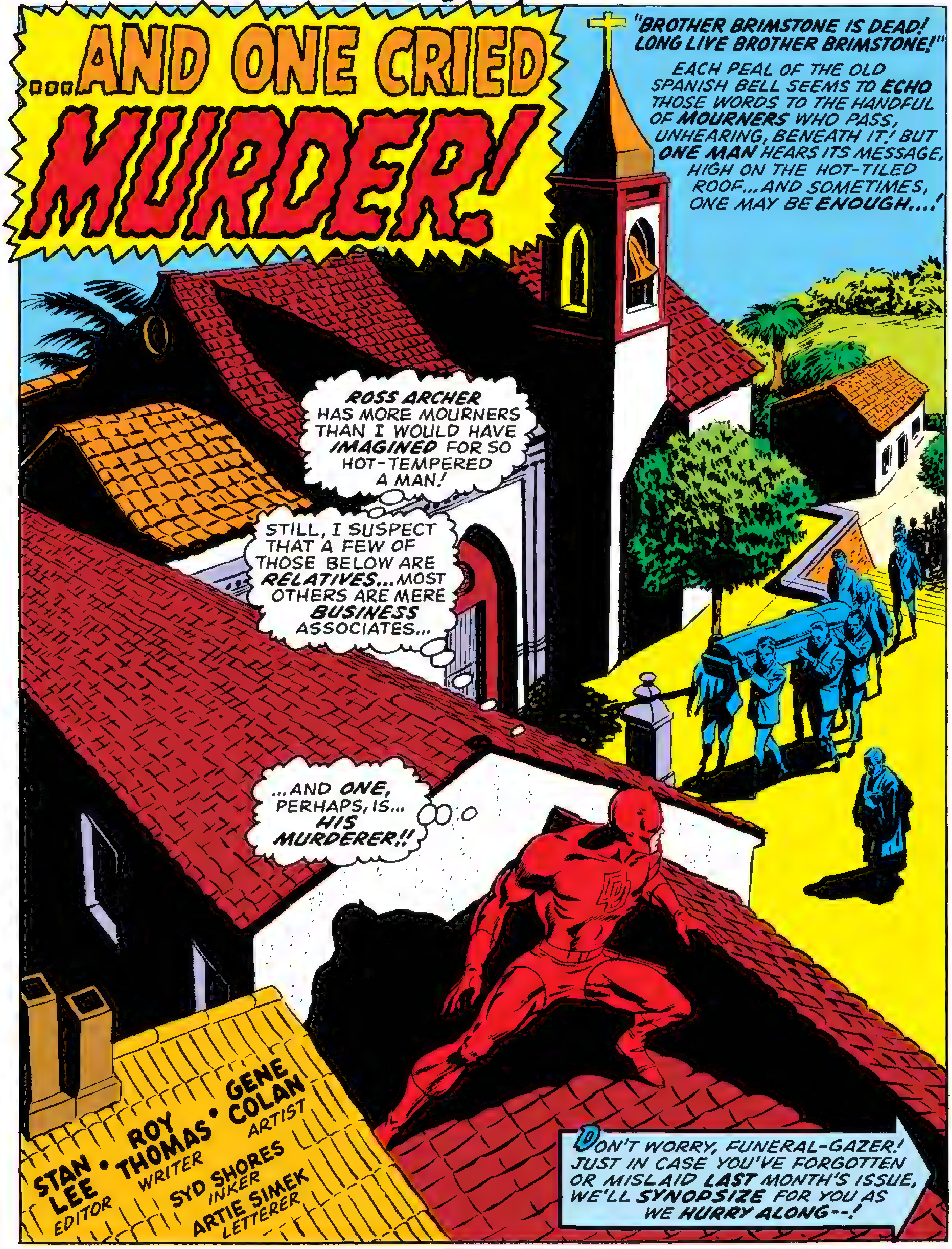

YES--I WAS A SPLIT-SECOND TOO LATE TO GRAB YOUR VICTIM, BRIMSTONE--
AND, IF HE WASN'T ALREADY DEAD AS I SUSPECT--
IT'LL BE SOMETHING I REGRET THE REST OF MY LIFE!
BUT, IF THE MOMENT IS PAST FOR RESCUE--
--THERE IS STILL TIME FOR--JUSTICE!
BKAK!
PKOW
PERHAPS YOU HAVE TIME TO WASTE IN SUCH IDLE PURSUITS, DAREDEVIL--
WELL, I DO NOT!!
THAT ONE BLOW--REALLY TOOK IT OUT OF ME--
--JUST LIKE LAST NIGHT!
BUT, WHAT'RE THOSE VOICES SAYING--DOWN BELOW--?
LT. NATELY! LOOK, SIR--AT THIS BODY THAT CAME TUMBLING DOWN!
THIS GUY'S BEEN STRANGLED--BY SOMEBODY WHO HAD A GRIP OF IRON!
LET ME SEE, OFFICER--MAYBE I'LL RECOGNIZE 'IM!
LET THE CAMERAMAN THRU, O'BRIEN!
NOW, WE'LL JUST SEE WHO--GOOD LORD!
THIS IS ROSS ARCHER--BROTHER BRIMSTONE!
NEXT: I LOVE A MYSTERY! --BUT, DOES IT LOVE ME??

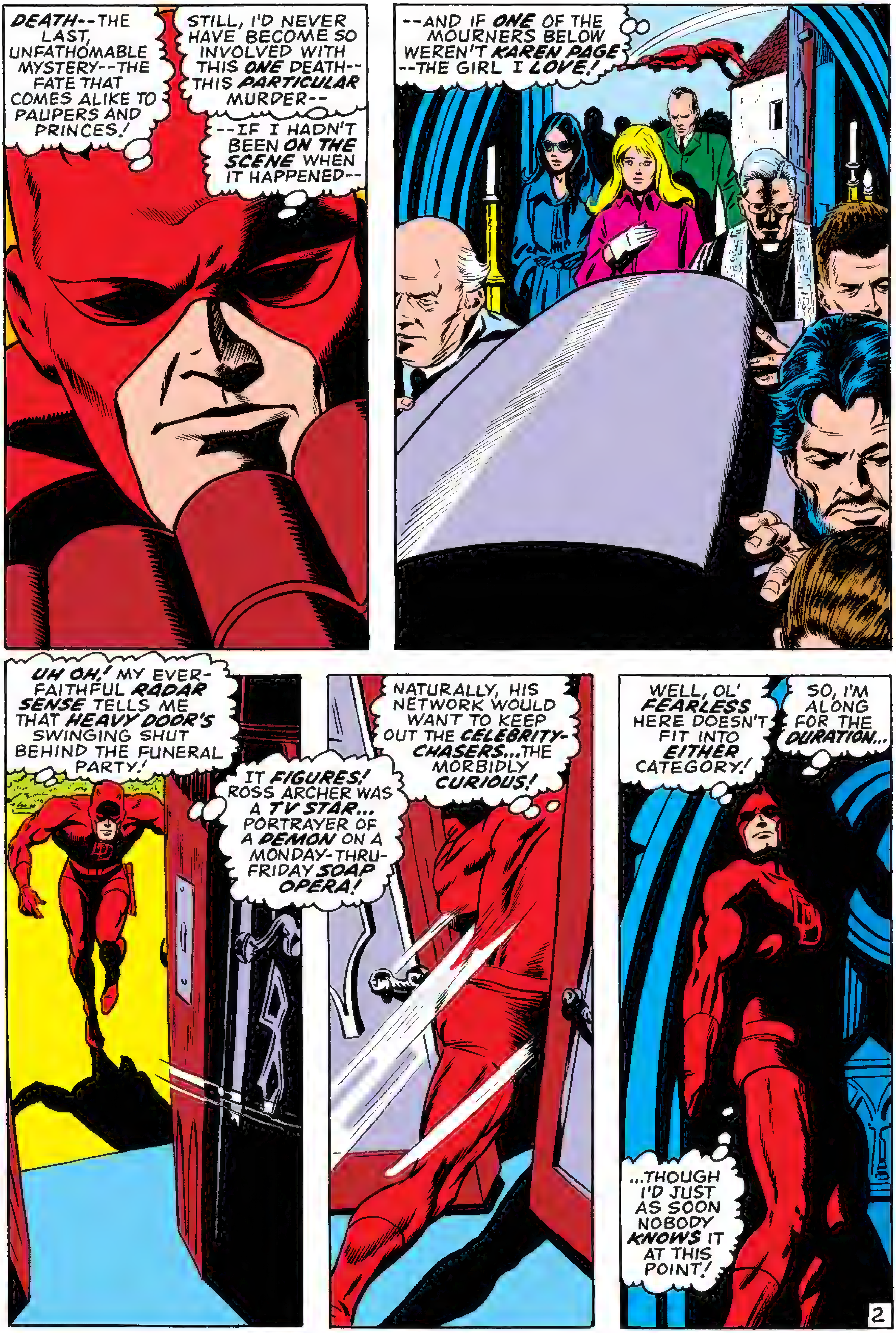
)

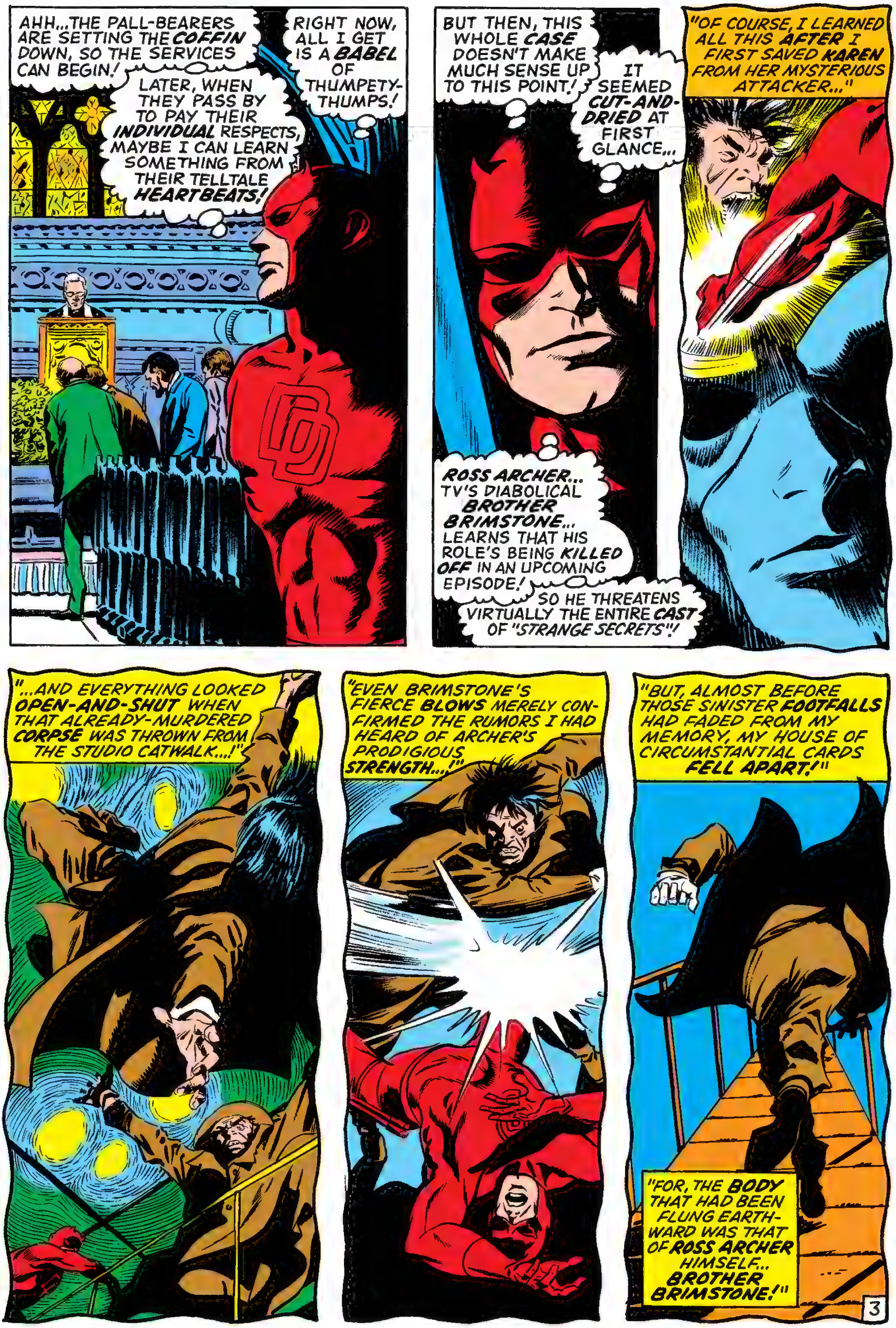
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
66
JULY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
IF I DIE *HERE*.. AND *NOW*.. I'LL BE THE VICTIM OF A *PERFECT CRIME!*
MY BODY WILL BE *HIDDEN* FOR A *MILLION YEARS!*
TRAPPED *IN THE* TAR PITS *OF* DEATH!

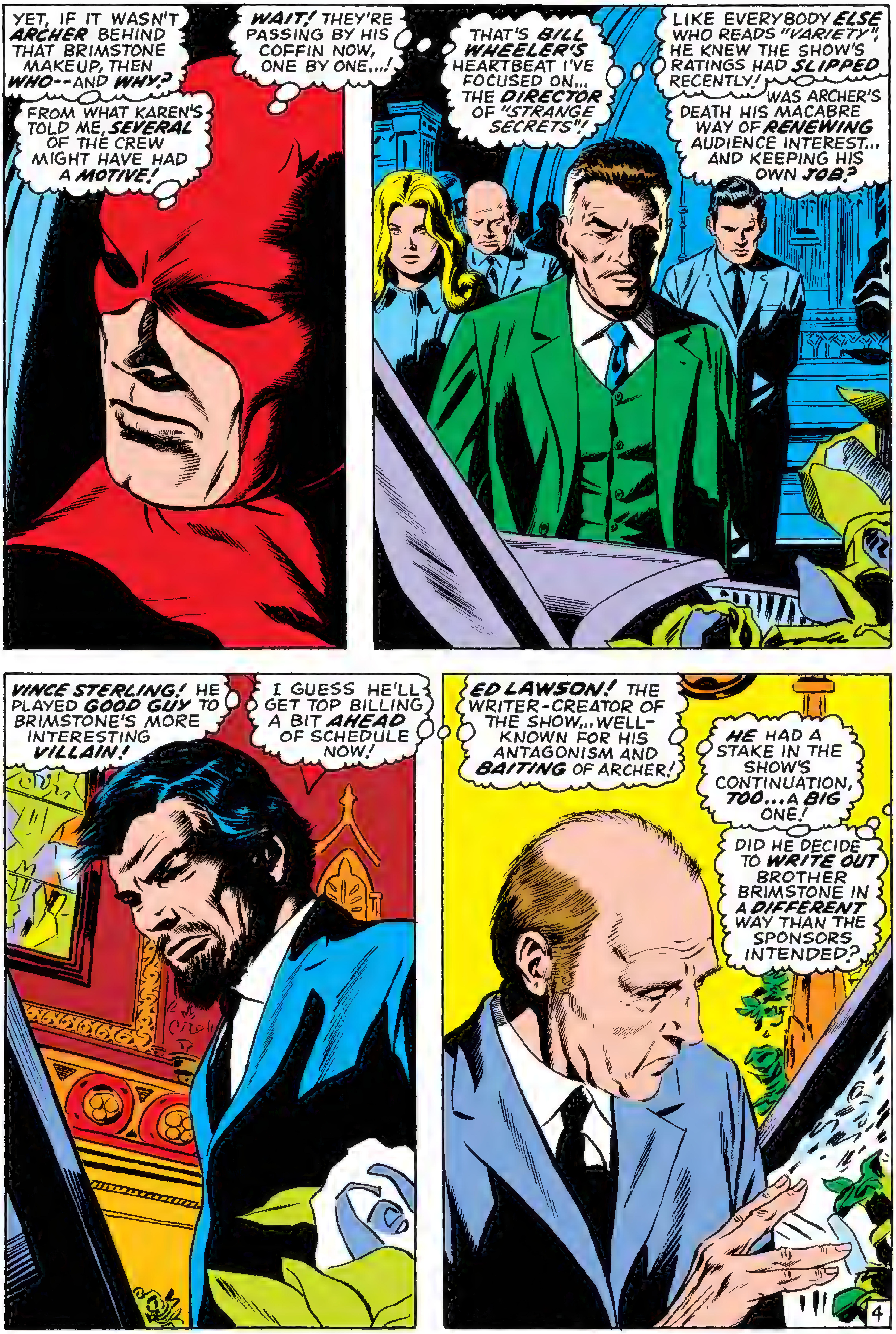
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

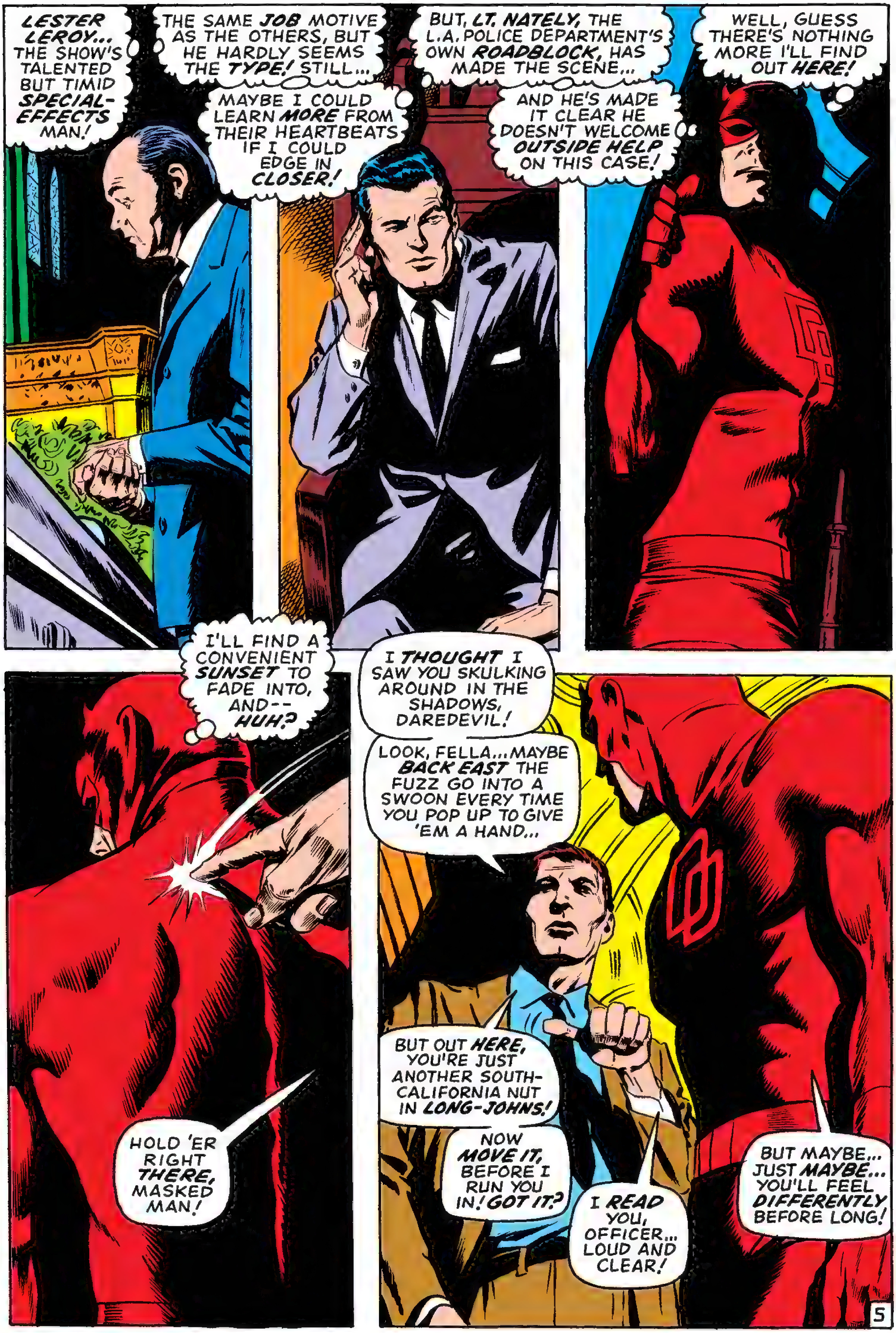
...AND ONE CRIED MURDER!

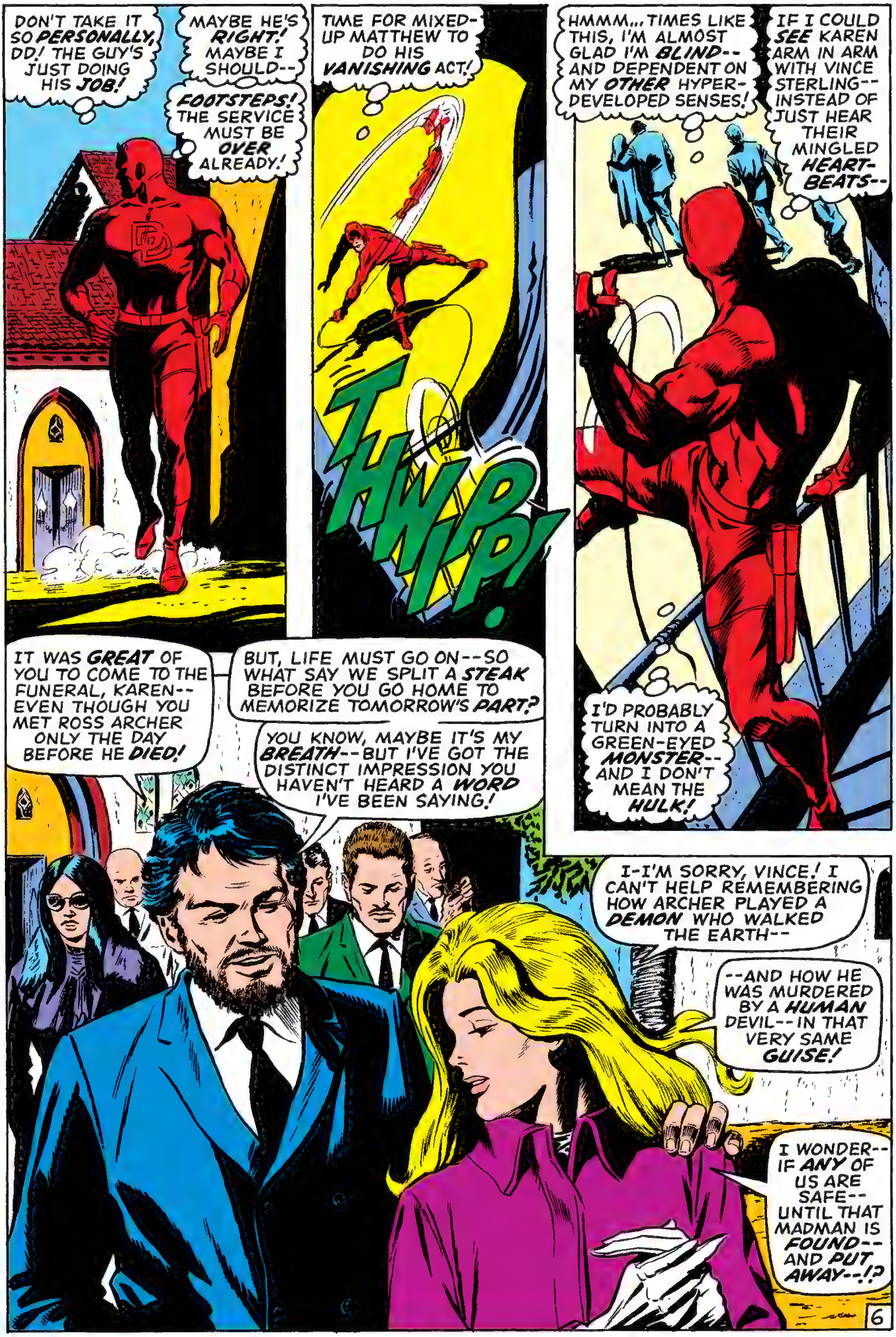

"BROTHER BRIMSTONE IS DEAD! LONG LIVE BROTHER BRIMSTONE!"
EACH PEAL OF THE OLD SPANISH BELL SEEMS TO ECHO THOSE WORDS TO THE HANDFUL OF MOURNERS WHO PASS, UNHEARING, BENEATH IT! BUT ONE MAN HEARS ITS MESSAGE, HIGH ON THE HOT-TILED ROOF... AND SOMETIMES, ONE MAY BE ENOUGH...!
ROSS ARCHER HAS MORE MOURNERS THAN I WOULD HAVE IMAGINED FOR SO HOT-TEMPERED A MAN!
STILL, I SUSPECT THAT A FEW OF THOSE BELOW ARE RELATIVES... MOST OTHERS ARE MERE BUSINESS ASSOCIATES...
...AND ONE, PERHAPS, IS... HIS MURDERER!!
STAN LEE • EDITOR
ROY THOMAS • WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES INKER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER
DON'T WORRY, FUNERAL-GAZER! JUST IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN OR MISLAID LAST MONTH'S ISSUE, WE'LL SYNOPSIZE FOR YOU AS WE HURRY ALONG--!

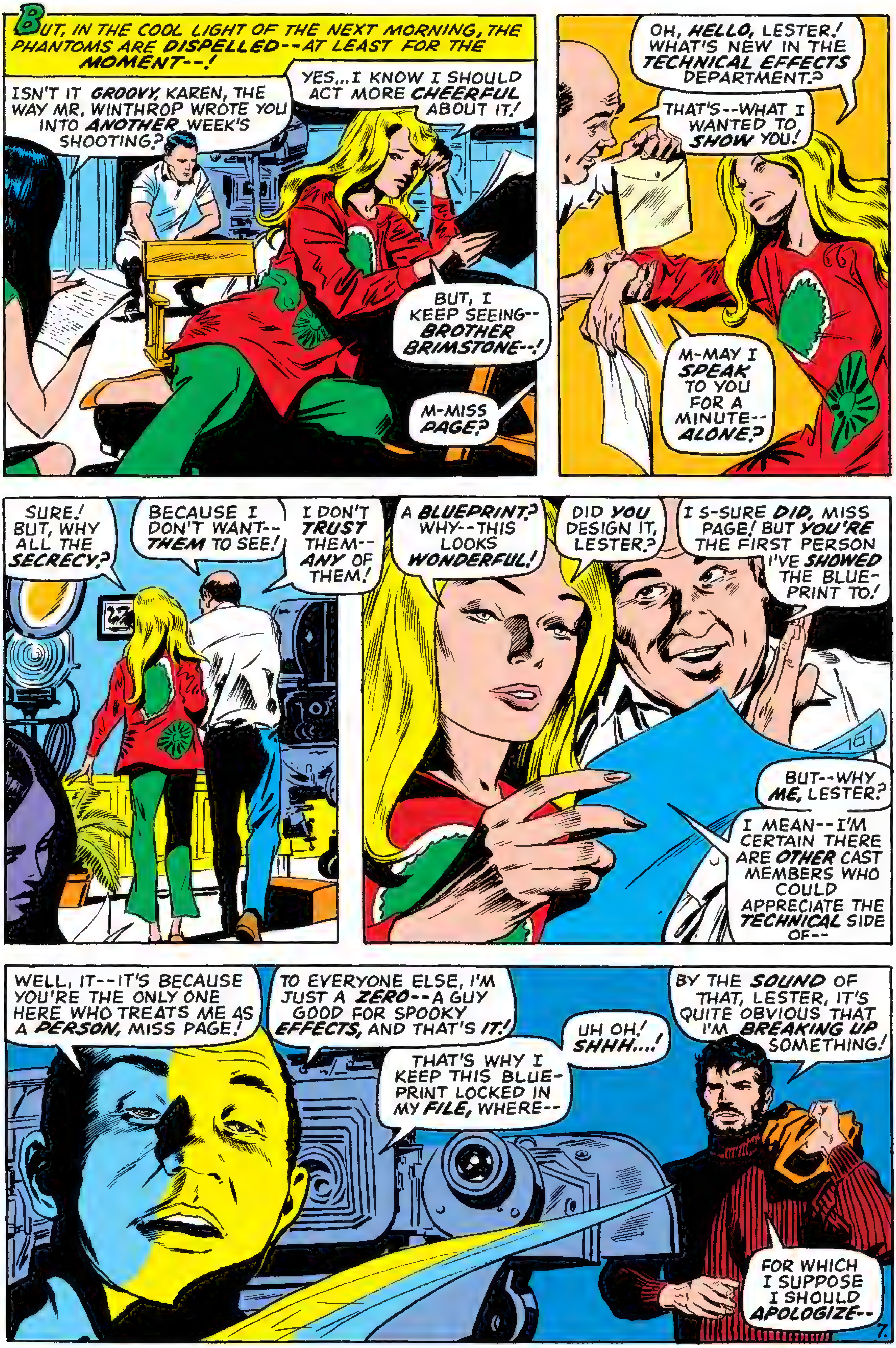

DEATH--THE LAST, UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY--THE FATE THAT COMES ALIKE TO PAUPERS AND PRINCES!
STILL, I'D NEVER HAVE BECOME SO INVOLVED WITH THIS ONE DEATH--THIS PARTICULAR MURDER--
--IF I HADN'T BEEN ON THE SCENE WHEN IT HAPPENED--
--AND IF ONE OF THE MOURNERS BELOW WEREN'T KAREN PAGE--THE GIRL I LOVE!
UH OH! MY EVER-FAITHFUL RADAR SENSE TELLS ME THAT HEAVY DOOR'S SWINGING SHUT BEHIND THE FUNERAL PARTY!
IT FIGURES! ROSS ARCHER WAS A TV STAR... PORTRAYER OF A DEMON ON A MONDAY-THRU-FRIDAY SOAP OPERA!
NATURALLY, HIS NETWORK WOULD WANT TO KEEP OUT THE CELEBRITY-CHASERS...THE MORBIDLY CURIOUS!
WELL, OL' FEARLESS HERE DOESN'T FIT INTO EITHER CATEGORY!
SO, I'M ALONG FOR THE DURATION...
...THOUGH I'D JUST AS SOON NOBODY KNOWS IT AT THIS POINT!
2

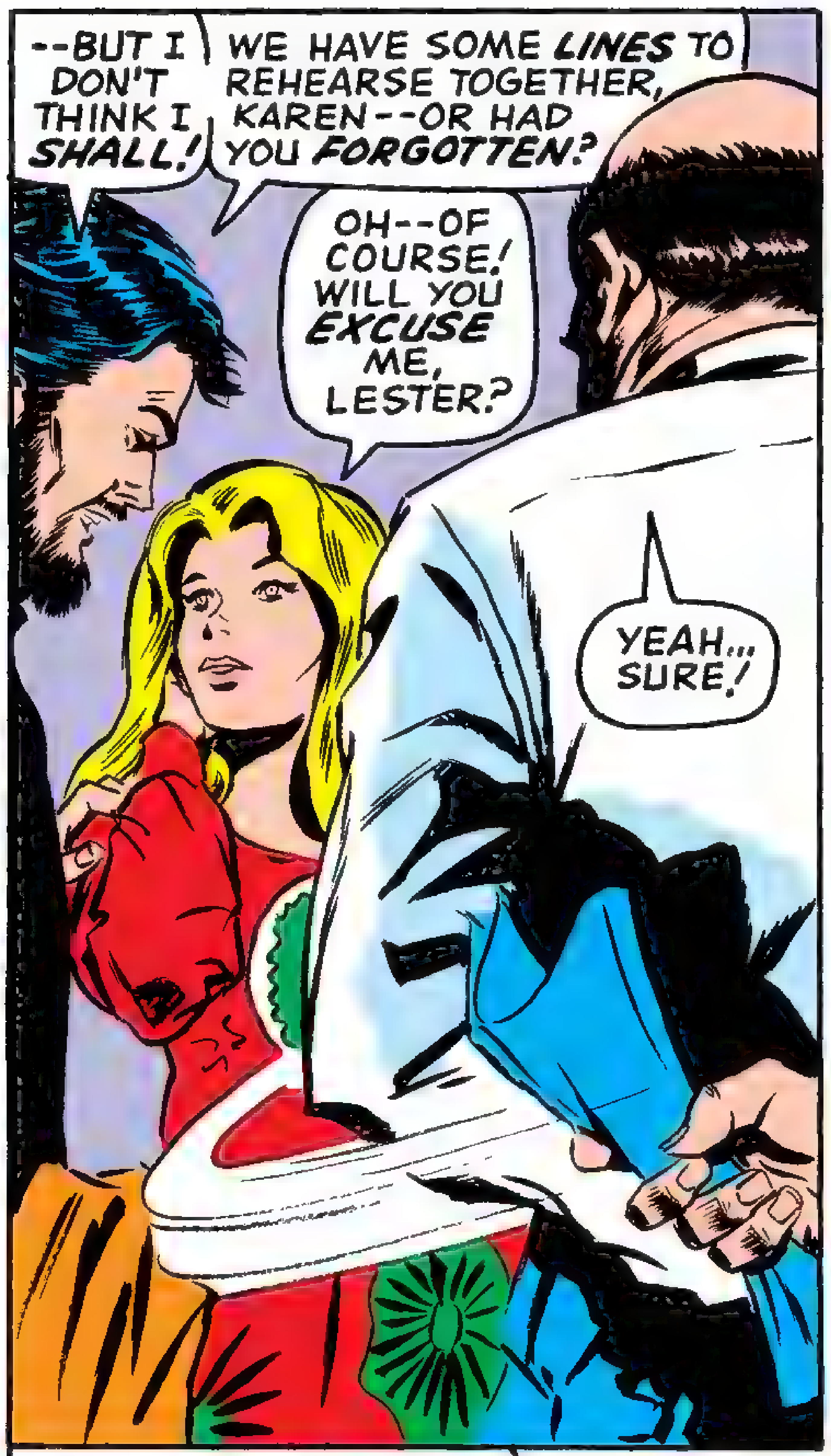

AHH...THE PALL-BEARERS ARE SETTING THE **COFFIN** DOWN, SO THE SERVICES CAN BEGIN!
LATER, WHEN THEY PASS BY TO PAY THEIR **INDIVIDUAL** RESPECTS, MAYBE I CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM THEIR TELLTALE **HEARTBEATS!**
RIGHT NOW, ALL I GET IS A **BABEL** OF THUMPETY-THUMPS!
BUT THEN, THIS WHOLE **CASE** DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE UP TO THIS POINT!
IT SEEMED **CUT-AND-DRIED** AT FIRST GLANCE...
ROSS ARCHER... TV'S DIABOLICAL **BROTHER BRIMSTONE...** LEARNS THAT HIS ROLE'S BEING **KILLED OFF** IN AN UPCOMING EPISODE!
SO HE THREATENS VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE **CAST** OF "STRANGE SECRETS"!
"OF COURSE, I LEARNED ALL THIS **AFTER** I FIRST SAVED **KAREN** FROM HER MYSTERIOUS ATTACKER..."
"...AND EVERYTHING LOOKED **OPEN-AND-SHUT** WHEN THAT ALREADY-MURDERED **CORPSE** WAS THROWN FROM THE STUDIO CATWALK...!"
"EVEN BRIMSTONE'S FIERCE **BLOWS** MERELY CONFIRMED THE RUMORS I HAD HEARD OF ARCHER'S PRODIGIOUS **STRENGTH...!"**
"BUT, ALMOST BEFORE THOSE SINISTER **FOOTFALLS** HAD FADED FROM MY MEMORY, MY HOUSE OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL CARDS **FELL APART!"**
"FOR, THE **BODY** THAT HAD BEEN FLUNG EARTHWARD WAS THAT OF **ROSS ARCHER** HIMSELF... **BROTHER BRIMSTONE!"**

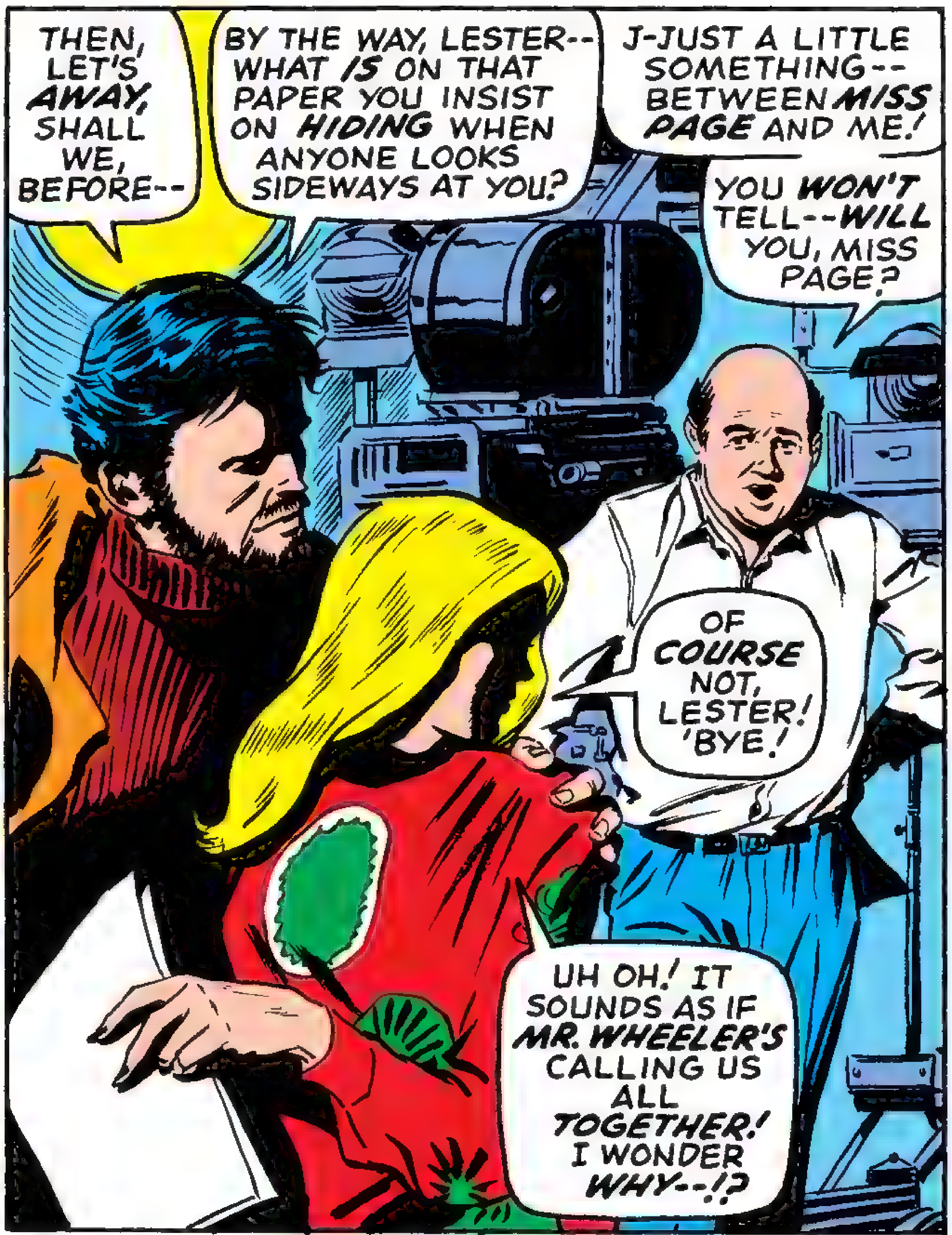

YET, IF IT WASN'T ARCHER BEHIND THAT BRIMSTONE MAKEUP, THEN WHO--AND WHY?
FROM WHAT KAREN'S TOLD ME, SEVERAL OF THE CREW MIGHT HAVE HAD A MOTIVE!
WAIT! THEY'RE PASSING BY HIS COFFIN NOW, ONE BY ONE...!
THAT'S BILL WHEELER'S HEARTBEAT I'VE FOCUSED ON... THE DIRECTOR OF "STRANGE SECRETS"!
LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE WHO READS "VARIETY", HE KNEW THE SHOW'S RATINGS HAD SLIPPED RECENTLY!
WAS ARCHER'S DEATH HIS MACABRE WAY OF RENEWING AUDIENCE INTEREST... AND KEEPING HIS OWN JOB?
VINCE STERLING! HE PLAYED GOOD GUY TO BRIMSTONE'S MORE INTERESTING VILLAIN!
I GUESS HE'LL GET TOP BILLING A BIT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE NOW!
ED LAWSON! THE WRITER-CREATOR OF THE SHOW... WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS ANTAGONISM AND BAITING OF ARCHER!
HE HAD A STAKE IN THE SHOW'S CONTINUATION, TOO... A BIG ONE!
DID HE DECIDE TO WRITE OUT BROTHER BRIMSTONE IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN THE SPONSORS INTENDED?

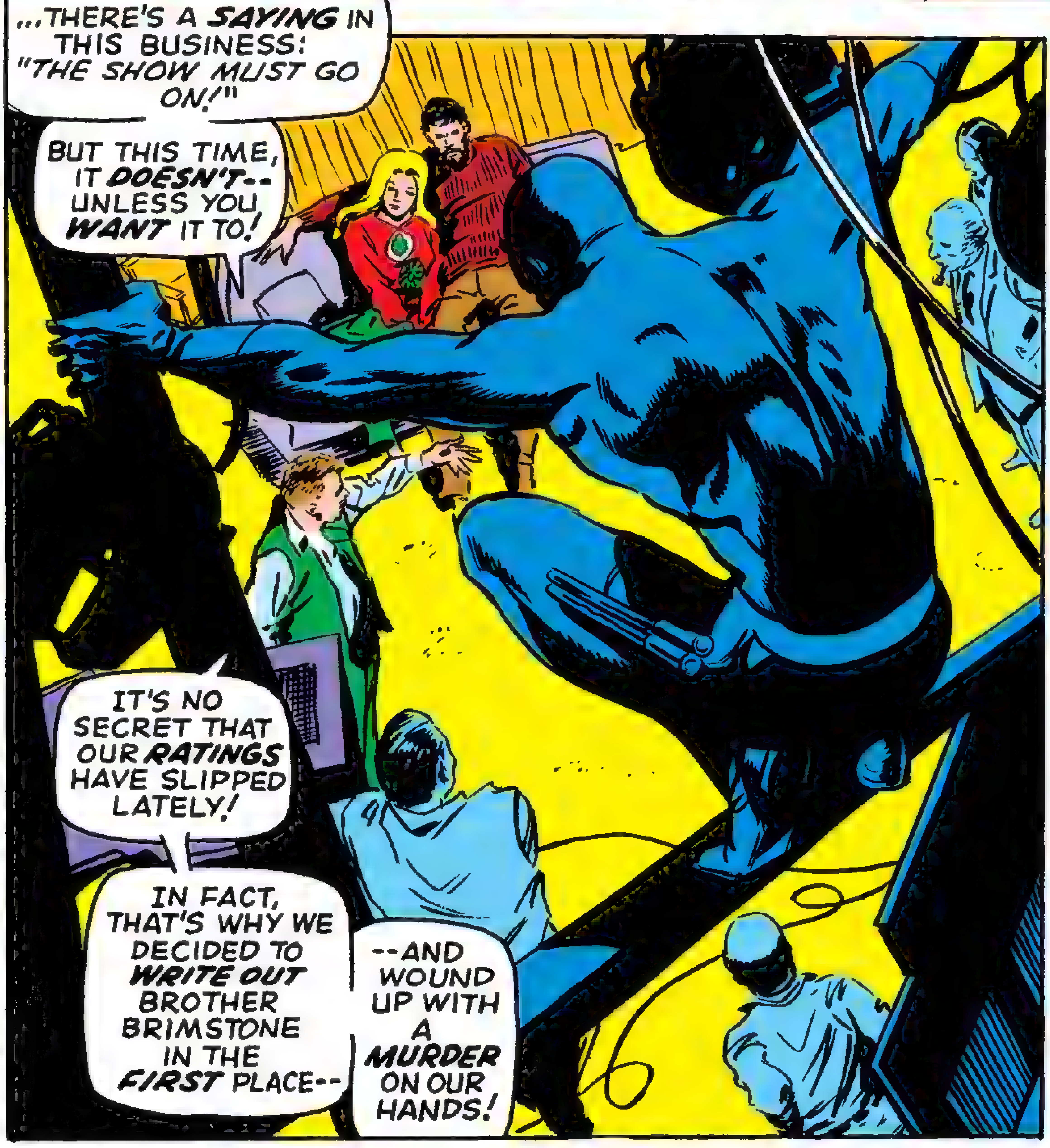

LESTER LEROY... THE SHOW'S TALENTED BUT TIMID SPECIAL-EFFECTS MAN!
THE SAME JOB MOTIVE AS THE OTHERS, BUT HE HARDLY SEEMS THE TYPE! STILL...
MAYBE I COULD LEARN MORE FROM THEIR HEARTBEATS IF I COULD EDGE IN CLOSER!
BUT, LT. NATELY, THE L.A. POLICE DEPARTMENT'S OWN ROADBLOCK, HAS MADE THE SCENE...
AND HE'S MADE IT CLEAR HE DOESN'T WELCOME OUTSIDE HELP ON THIS CASE!
WELL, GUESS THERE'S NOTHING MORE I'LL FIND OUT HERE!
I'LL FIND A CONVENIENT SUNSET TO FADE INTO, AND-- HUH?
HOLD 'ER RIGHT THERE, MASKED MAN!
I THOUGHT I SAW YOU SKULKING AROUND IN THE SHADOWS, DAREDEVIL!
LOOK, FELLA... MAYBE BACK EAST THE FUZZ GO INTO A SWOON EVERY TIME YOU POP UP TO GIVE 'EM A HAND...
BUT OUT HERE, YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER SOUTH-CALIFORNIA NUT IN LONG-JOHNS!
NOW MOVE IT, BEFORE I RUN YOU IN! GOT IT?
I READ YOU, OFFICER... LOUD AND CLEAR!
BUT MAYBE... JUST MAYBE... YOU'LL FEEL DIFFERENTLY BEFORE LONG!

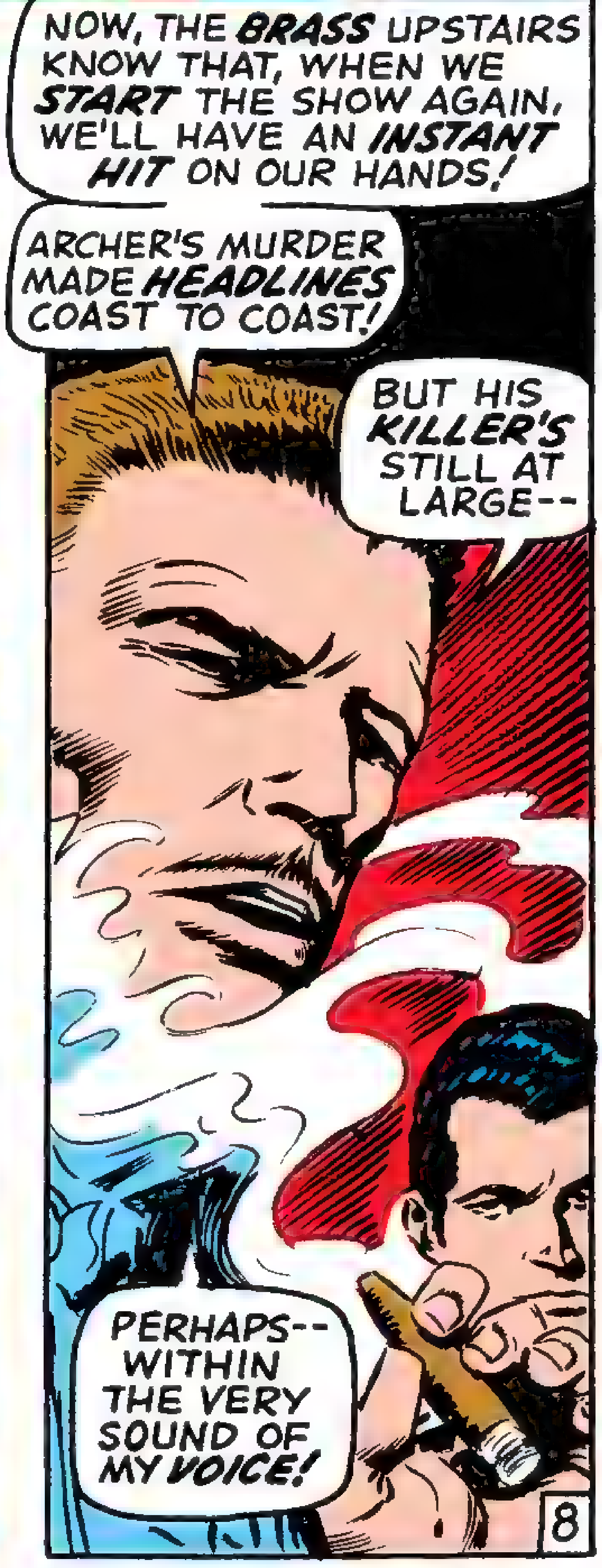

DON'T TAKE IT SO PERSONALLY, DD! THE GUY'S JUST DOING HIS JOB!
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT! MAYBE I SHOULD--
FOOTSTEPS! THE SERVICE MUST BE OVER ALREADY!
TIME FOR MIXED-UP MATTHEW TO DO HIS VANISHING ACT!
THWIPP!
HMMM... TIMES LIKE THIS, I'M ALMOST GLAD I'M BLIND-- AND DEPENDENT ON MY OTHER HYPER-DEVELOPED SENSES!
IF I COULD SEE KAREN ARM IN ARM WITH VINCE STERLING-- INSTEAD OF JUST HEAR THEIR MINGLED HEART-BEATS--
I'D PROBABLY TURN INTO A GREEN-EYED MONSTER-- AND I DON'T MEAN THE HULK!
IT WAS GREAT OF YOU TO COME TO THE FUNERAL, KAREN-- EVEN THOUGH YOU MET ROSS ARCHER ONLY THE DAY BEFORE HE DIED!
BUT, LIFE MUST GO ON--SO WHAT SAY WE SPLIT A STEAK BEFORE YOU GO HOME TO MEMORIZE TOMORROW'S PART?
YOU KNOW, MAYBE IT'S MY BREATH--BUT I'VE GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I'VE BEEN SAYING!
I-I'M SORRY, VINCE! I CAN'T HELP REMEMBERING HOW ARCHER PLAYED A DEMON WHO WALKED THE EARTH--
--AND HOW HE WAS MURDERED BY A HUMAN DEVIL--IN THAT VERY SAME GUISE!
I WONDER-- IF ANY OF US ARE SAFE-- UNTIL THAT MADMAN IS FOUND-- AND PUT AWAY--!?

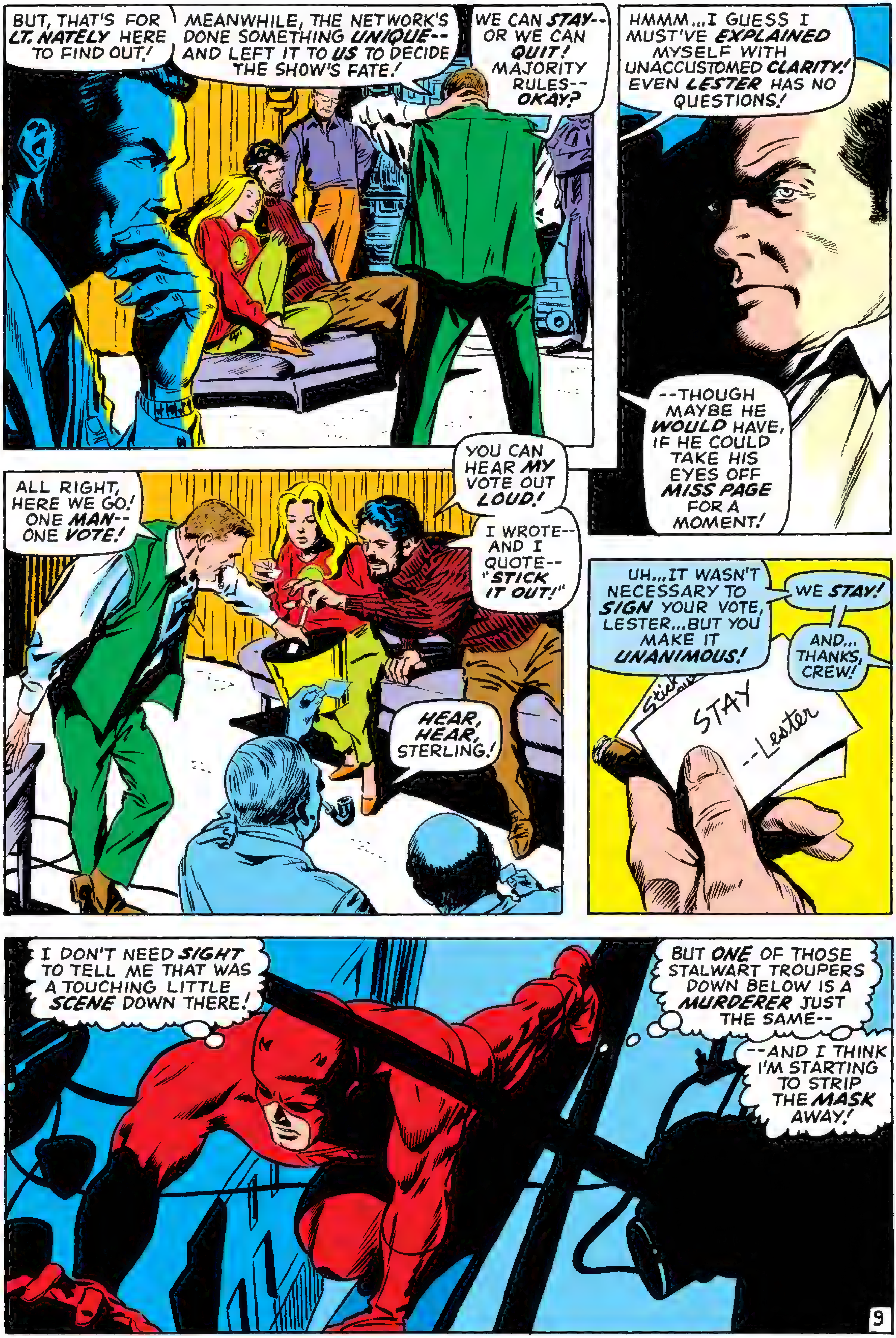

BUT, IN THE COOL LIGHT OF THE NEXT MORNING, THE PHANTOMS ARE *DISPELLED*--AT LEAST FOR THE *MOMENT*--!
ISN'T IT *GROOVY*, KAREN, THE WAY MR. WINTHROP WROTE YOU INTO *ANOTHER* WEEK'S SHOOTING?
YES...I KNOW I SHOULD ACT MORE *CHEERFUL* ABOUT IT!
BUT, I KEEP SEEING--*BROTHER BRIMSTONE*--!
M-MISS *PAGE?*
OH, *HELLO*, LESTER! WHAT'S NEW IN THE *TECHNICAL EFFECTS* DEPARTMENT?
THAT'S--WHAT I WANTED TO *SHOW* YOU!
M-MAY I *SPEAK* TO YOU FOR A MINUTE--*ALONE?*
SURE! BUT, WHY ALL THE *SECRECY?*
BECAUSE I DON'T WANT--*THEM* TO SEE!
I DON'T *TRUST* THEM--*ANY* OF THEM!
A *BLUEPRINT?* WHY--THIS LOOKS *WONDERFUL!*
DID *YOU* DESIGN IT, LESTER?
I S-SURE *DID*, MISS PAGE! BUT *YOU'RE* THE FIRST PERSON I'VE *SHOWED* THE BLUEPRINT TO!
BUT--WHY *ME*, LESTER?
I MEAN--I'M CERTAIN THERE ARE *OTHER* CAST MEMBERS WHO COULD APPRECIATE THE *TECHNICAL* SIDE OF--
WELL, IT--IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO TREATS ME AS A *PERSON*, MISS PAGE!
TO EVERYONE ELSE, I'M JUST A *ZERO*--A GUY GOOD FOR SPOOKY *EFFECTS*, AND THAT'S *IT!*
THAT'S WHY I KEEP THIS BLUEPRINT LOCKED IN MY *FILE*, WHERE--
UH OH! *SHHH...!*
BY THE *SOUND* OF THAT, LESTER, IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS THAT I'M *BREAKING UP* SOMETHING!
FOR WHICH I SUPPOSE I SHOULD *APOLOGIZE*--

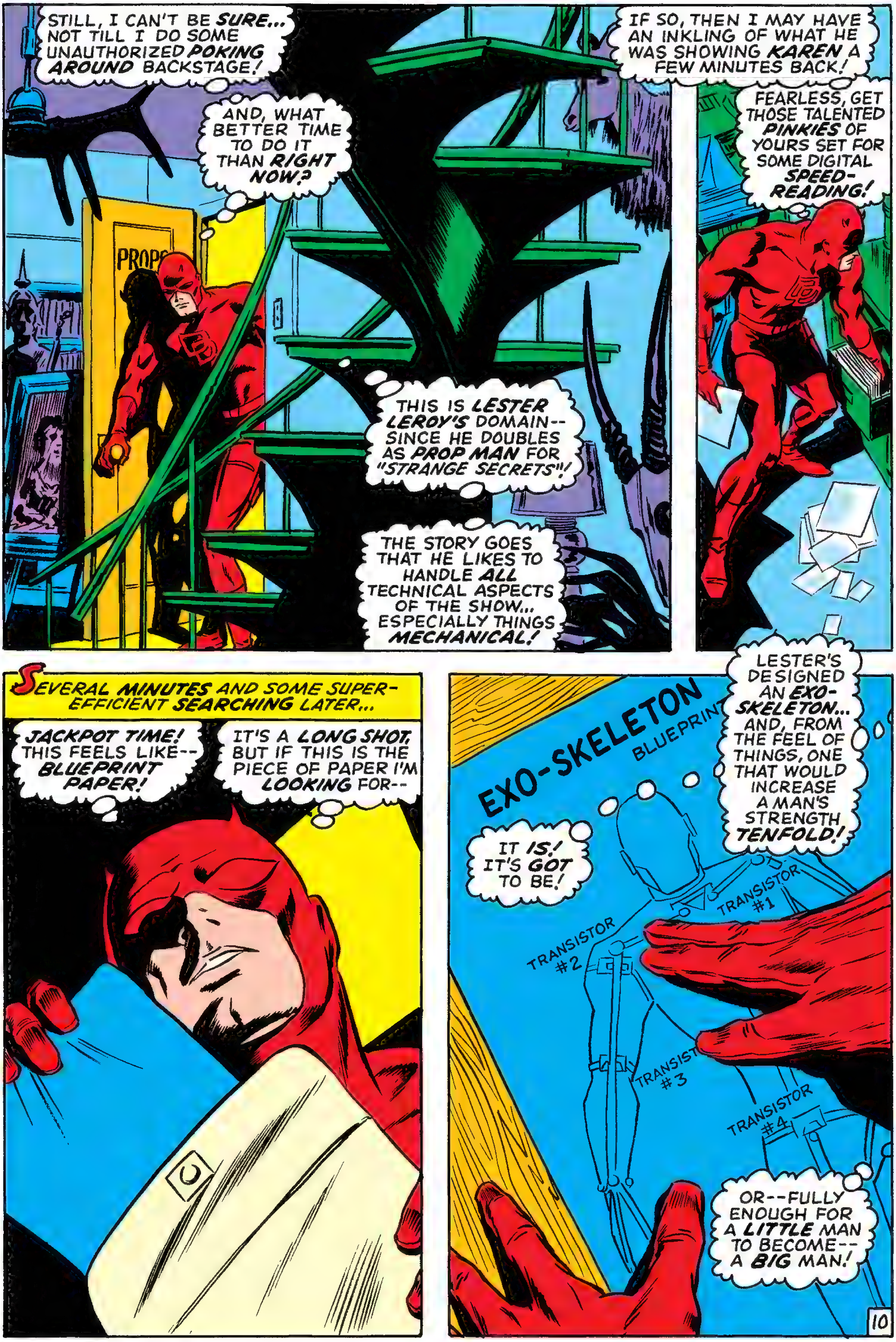

--BUT I DON'T THINK I *SHALL!*
WE HAVE SOME *LINES* TO REHEARSE TOGETHER, KAREN--OR HAD YOU *FORGOTTEN?*
OH--OF COURSE! WILL YOU *EXCUSE* ME, LESTER?
YEAH... SURE!

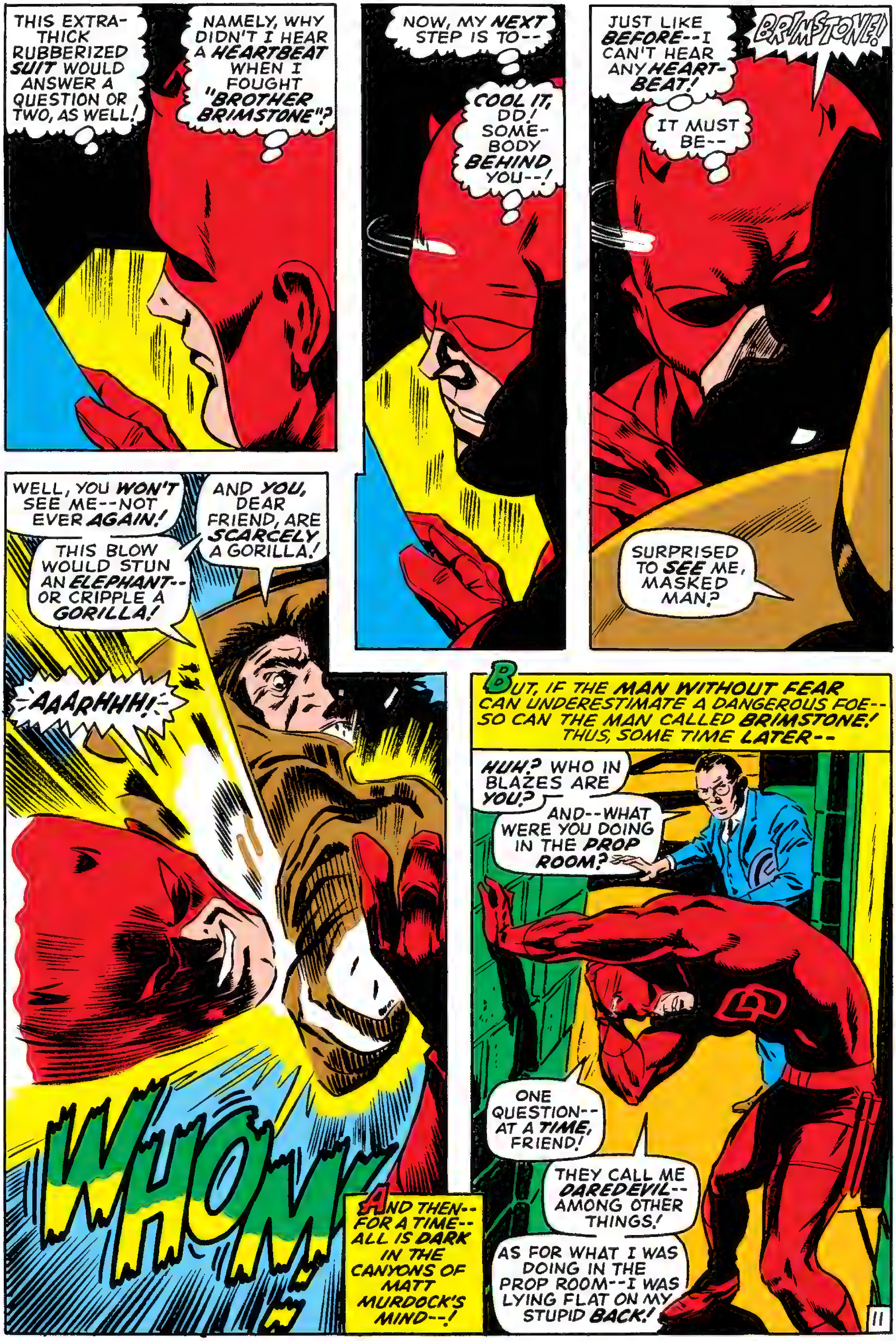

THEN, LET'S *AWAY,* SHALL WE, BEFORE--
BY THE WAY, LESTER--WHAT *IS* ON THAT PAPER YOU INSIST ON *HIDING* WHEN ANYONE LOOKS SIDEWAYS AT YOU?
J-JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING--BETWEEN *MISS PAGE* AND ME!
YOU *WON'T* TELL--*WILL* YOU, MISS PAGE?
OF *COURSE* NOT, LESTER! 'BYE!
UH OH! IT SOUNDS AS IF *MR. WHEELER'S* CALLING US ALL *TOGETHER!* I WONDER *WHY--!?*

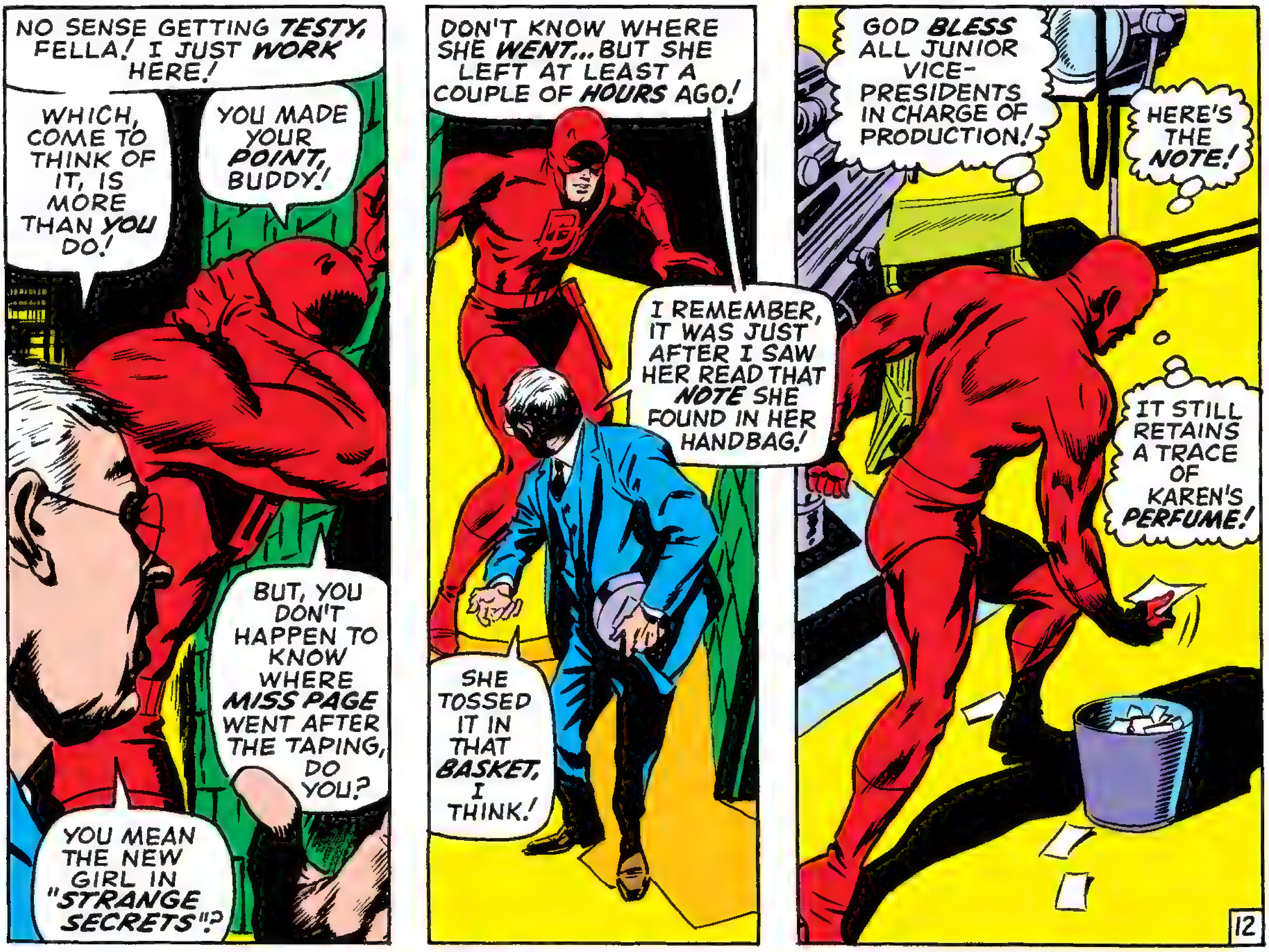

...THERE'S A *SAYING* IN THIS BUSINESS: *"THE SHOW MUST GO ON!"*
BUT THIS TIME, IT *DOESN'T--* UNLESS YOU *WANT* IT TO!
IT'S NO SECRET THAT OUR *RATINGS* HAVE SLIPPED LATELY!
IN FACT, THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED TO *WRITE OUT* BROTHER BRIMSTONE IN THE *FIRST* PLACE--
--AND WOUND UP WITH A *MURDER* ON OUR HANDS!

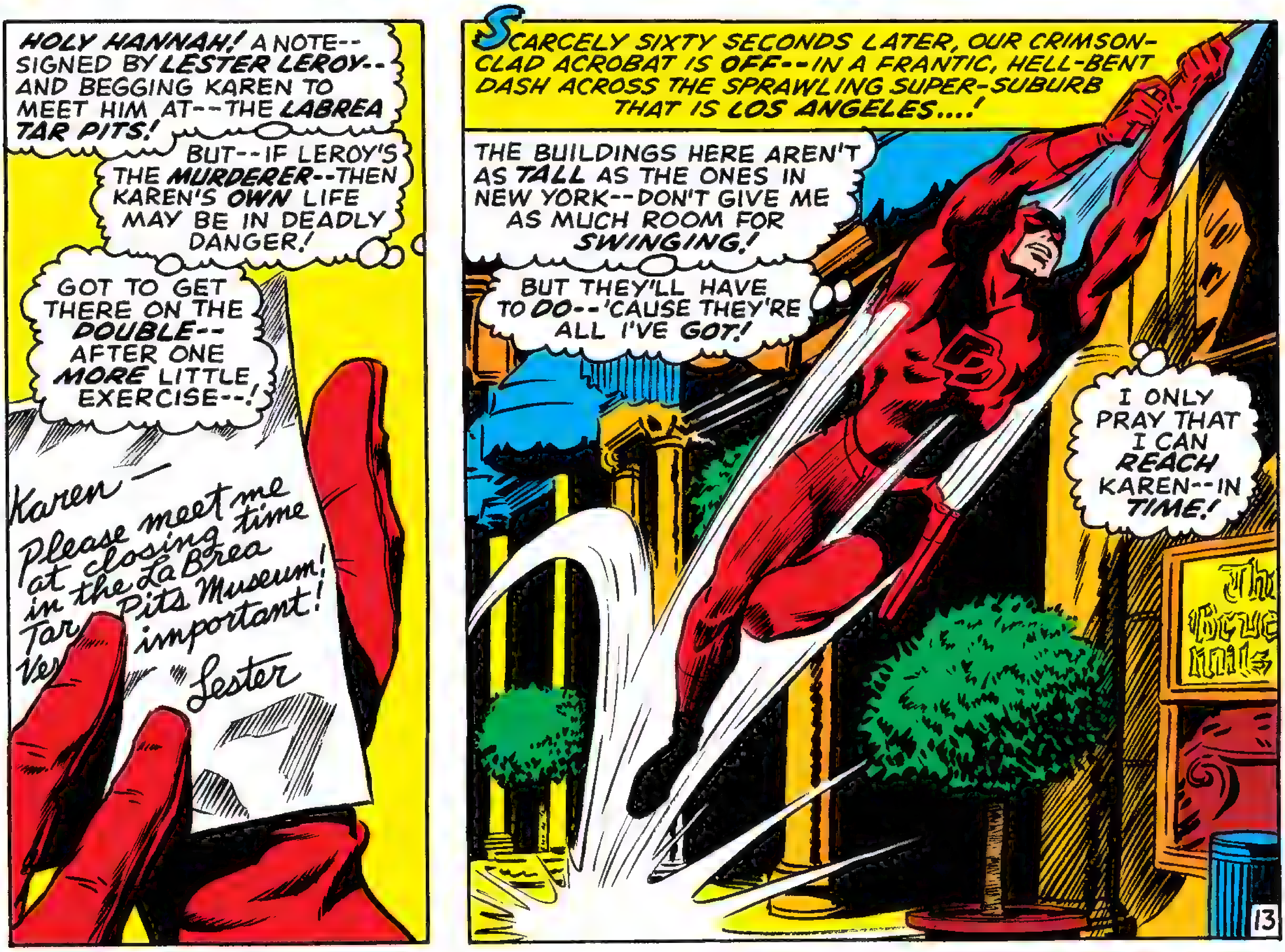

NOW, THE *BRASS* UPSTAIRS KNOW THAT, WHEN WE *START* THE SHOW AGAIN, WE'LL HAVE AN *INSTANT HIT* ON OUR HANDS!
ARCHER'S MURDER MADE *HEADLINES* COAST TO COAST!
BUT HIS *KILLER'S* STILL AT LARGE--
PERHAPS--WITHIN THE VERY SOUND OF MY *VOICE!*


BUT, THAT'S FOR **LT. NATELY** HERE TO FIND OUT!
MEANWHILE, THE NETWORK'S DONE SOMETHING **UNIQUE**-- AND LEFT IT TO **US** TO DECIDE THE SHOW'S FATE!
WE CAN **STAY**-- OR WE CAN **QUIT!** MAJORITY RULES-- **OKAY?**
HMMM...I GUESS I MUST'VE **EXPLAINED** MYSELF WITH UNACCUSTOMED **CLARITY!** EVEN **LESTER** HAS NO QUESTIONS!
--THOUGH MAYBE HE **WOULD** HAVE, IF HE COULD TAKE HIS EYES OFF **MISS PAGE** FOR A MOMENT!
ALL RIGHT, HERE WE GO! ONE **MAN**-- ONE **VOTE!**
YOU CAN HEAR **MY** VOTE OUT **LOUD!**
I WROTE-- AND I QUOTE-- "**STICK IT OUT!**"
HEAR, HEAR, STERLING!
UH...IT WASN'T NECESSARY TO **SIGN** YOUR VOTE, LESTER...BUT YOU MAKE IT **UNANIMOUS!**
WE **STAY!**
AND... THANKS, CREW!
Stick
STAY --Lester
I DON'T NEED **SIGHT** TO TELL ME THAT WAS A TOUCHING LITTLE **SCENE** DOWN THERE!
BUT **ONE** OF THOSE STALWART TROUPERS DOWN BELOW IS A **MURDERER** JUST THE SAME--
--AND I THINK I'M STARTING TO STRIP THE **MASK** AWAY!

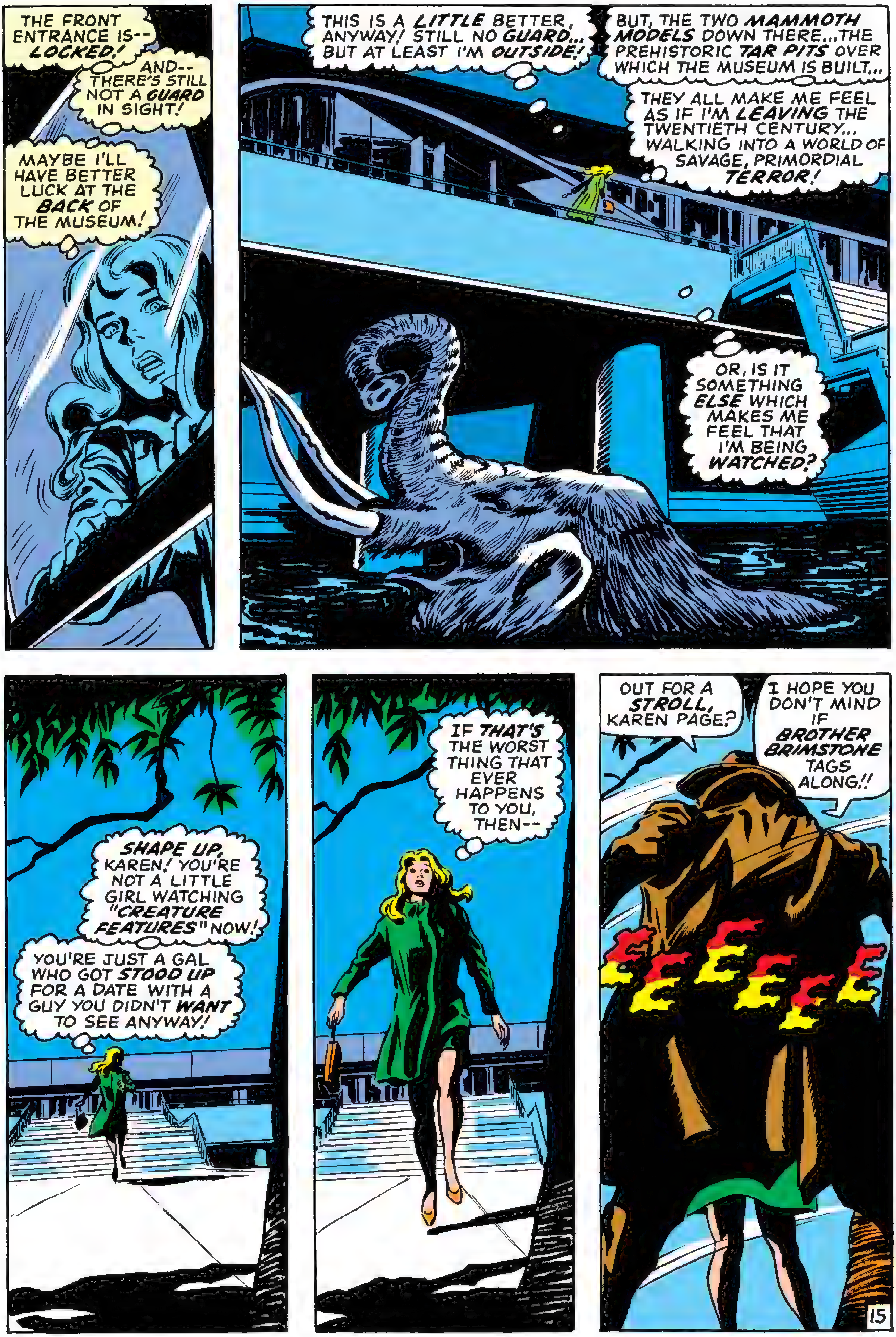

STILL, I CAN'T BE SURE... NOT TILL I DO SOME UNAUTHORIZED POKING AROUND BACKSTAGE!
AND, WHAT BETTER TIME TO DO IT THAN RIGHT NOW?
PROPS
THIS IS LESTER LEROY'S DOMAIN-- SINCE HE DOUBLES AS PROP MAN FOR "STRANGE SECRETS"!
THE STORY GOES THAT HE LIKES TO HANDLE ALL TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE SHOW... ESPECIALLY THINGS MECHANICAL!
IF SO, THEN I MAY HAVE AN INKLING OF WHAT HE WAS SHOWING KAREN A FEW MINUTES BACK!
FEARLESS, GET THOSE TALENTED PINKIES OF YOURS SET FOR SOME DIGITAL SPEED-READING!
SEVERAL MINUTES AND SOME SUPER-EFFICIENT SEARCHING LATER...
JACKPOT TIME! THIS FEELS LIKE-- BLUEPRINT PAPER!
IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT IF THIS IS THE PIECE OF PAPER I'M LOOKING FOR--
EXO-SKELETON BLUEPRINT
IT IS! IT'S GOT TO BE!
LESTER'S DESIGNED AN EXO-SKELETON... AND, FROM THE FEEL OF THINGS, ONE THAT WOULD INCREASE A MAN'S STRENGTH TENFOLD!
TRANSISTOR #1
TRANSISTOR #2
TRANSIST #3
TRANSISTOR #4
OR--FULLY ENOUGH FOR A LITTLE MAN TO BECOME-- A BIG MAN!

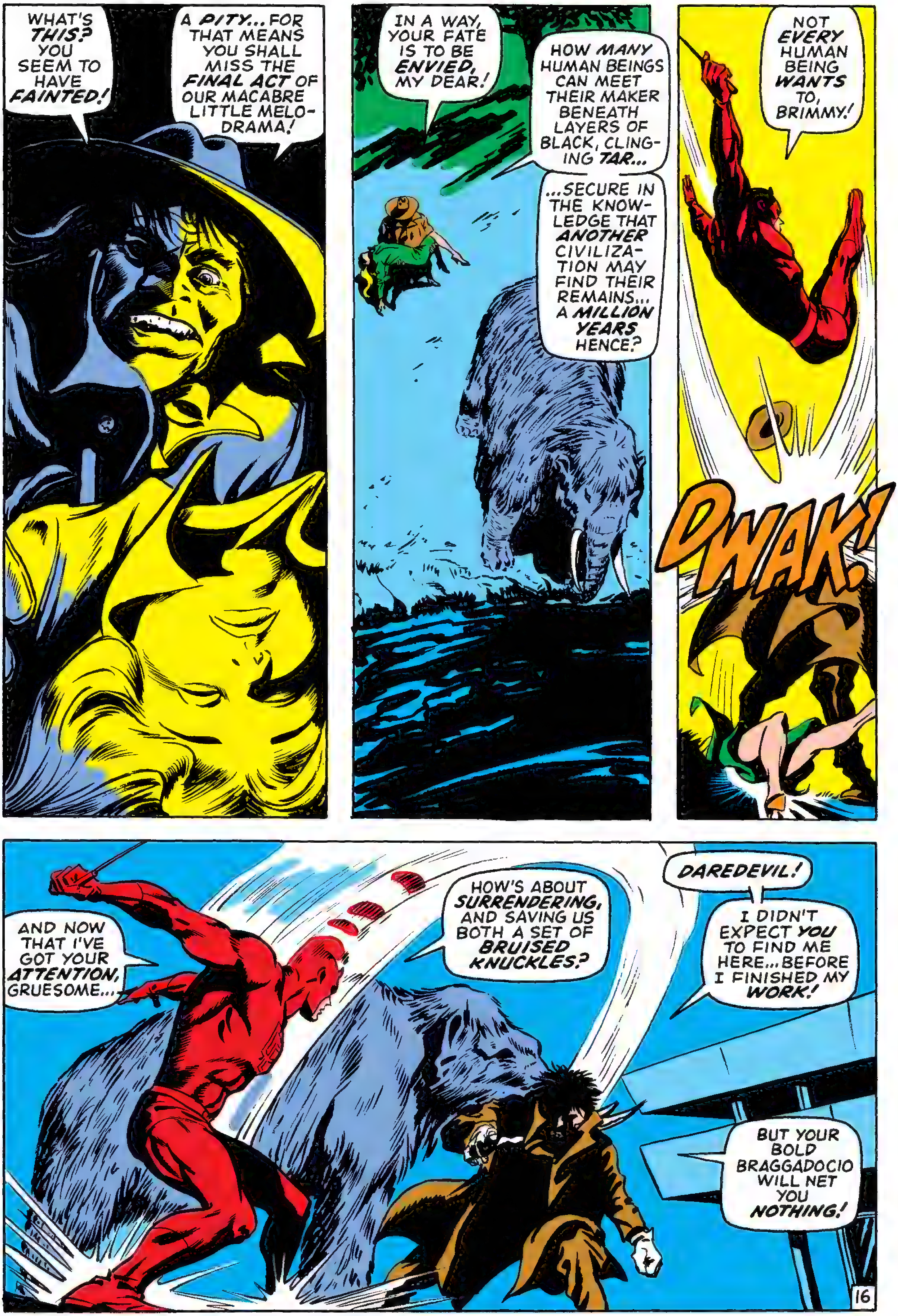

THIS EXTRA-THICK RUBBERIZED SUIT WOULD ANSWER A QUESTION OR TWO, AS WELL!
NAMELY, WHY DIDN'T I HEAR A HEARTBEAT WHEN I FOUGHT "BROTHER BRIMSTONE"?
NOW, MY NEXT STEP IS TO--
COOL IT, DD! SOMEBODY BEHIND YOU--!
JUST LIKE BEFORE--I CAN'T HEAR ANY HEART-BEAT!
BRIMSTONE!
IT MUST BE--
SURPRISED TO SEE ME, MASKED MAN?
WELL, YOU WON'T SEE ME--NOT EVER AGAIN!
AND YOU, DEAR FRIEND, ARE SCARCELY A GORILLA!
THIS BLOW WOULD STUN AN ELEPHANT--OR CRIPPLE A GORILLA!
AAARHHH!
WHOM!
AND THEN--FOR A TIME--ALL IS DARK IN THE CANYONS OF MATT MURDOCK'S MIND--!
BUT, IF THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR CAN UNDERESTIMATE A DANGEROUS FOE--SO CAN THE MAN CALLED BRIMSTONE! THUS, SOME TIME LATER--
HUH? WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU?
AND--WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE PROP ROOM?
ONE QUESTION--AT A TIME, FRIEND!
THEY CALL ME DAREDEVIL--AMONG OTHER THINGS!
AS FOR WHAT I WAS DOING IN THE PROP ROOM--I WAS LYING FLAT ON MY STUPID BACK!

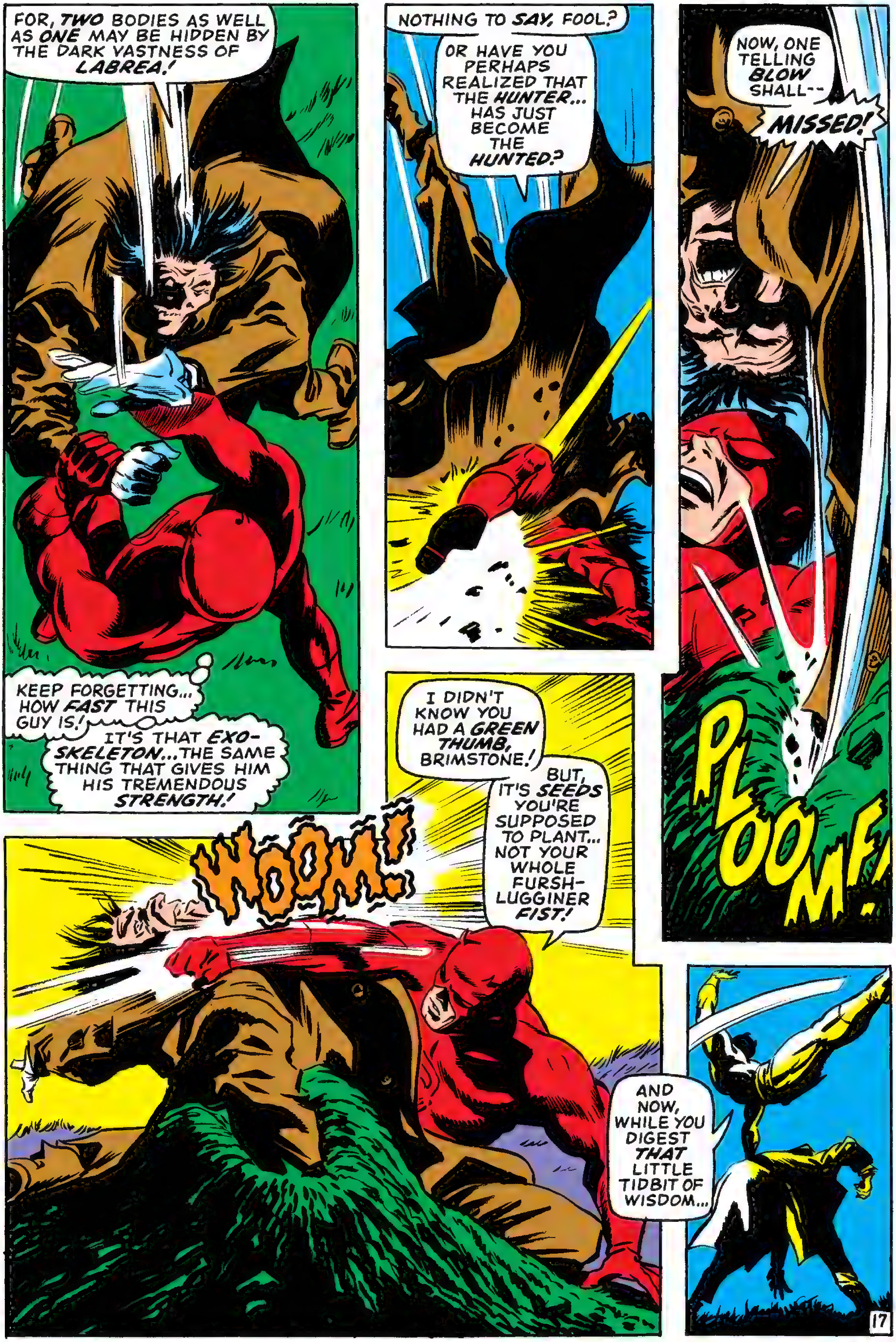

NO SENSE GETTING *TESTY,* FELLA! I JUST *WORK* HERE!
YOU MADE YOUR *POINT,* BUDDY!
WHICH, COME TO THINK OF IT, IS MORE THAN *YOU* DO!
BUT, YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE *MISS PAGE* WENT AFTER THE TAPING, DO YOU?
YOU MEAN THE NEW GIRL IN *"STRANGE SECRETS"*?
DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE *WENT...* BUT SHE LEFT AT LEAST A COUPLE OF *HOURS* AGO!
I REMEMBER, IT WAS JUST AFTER I SAW HER READ THAT *NOTE* SHE FOUND IN HER HANDBAG!
SHE TOSSED IT IN THAT *BASKET,* I THINK!
GOD *BLESS* ALL JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENTS IN CHARGE OF PRODUCTION!
HERE'S THE *NOTE!*
IT STILL RETAINS A TRACE OF KAREN'S *PERFUME!*
12

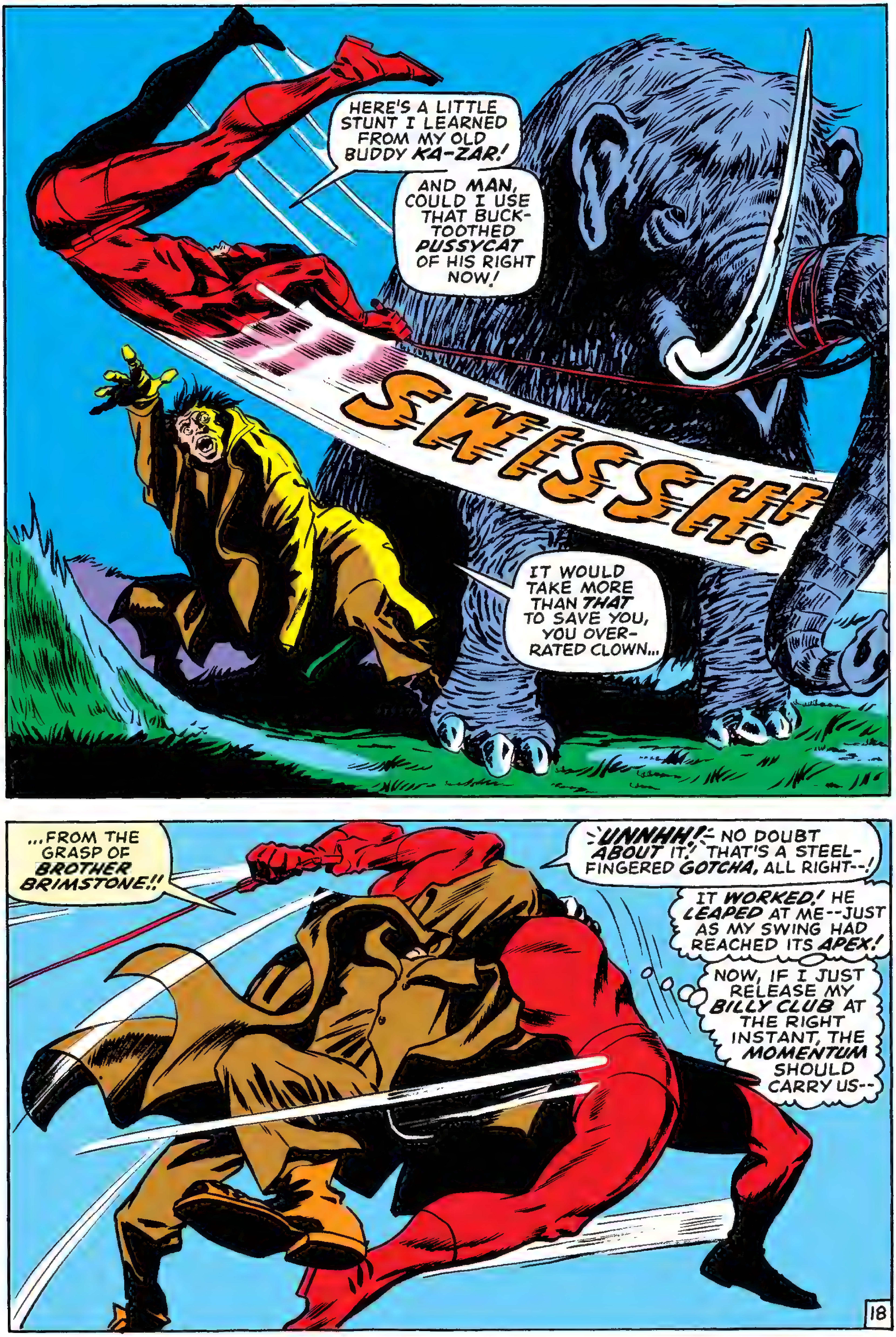

HOLY HANNAH! A NOTE--SIGNED BY *LESTER LEROY*--AND BEGGING KAREN TO MEET HIM AT--THE *LABREA TAR PITS!*
BUT--IF LEROY'S THE *MURDERER*--THEN KAREN'S *OWN* LIFE MAY BE IN DEADLY DANGER!
GOT TO GET THERE ON THE *DOUBLE*--AFTER ONE *MORE* LITTLE EXERCISE--!
Karen—
Please meet me
at closing time
in the La Brea
Tar Pits Museum!
Ve important!
Lester
SCARCELY SIXTY SECONDS LATER, OUR CRIMSON-CLAD ACROBAT IS OFF--IN A FRANTIC, HELL-BENT DASH ACROSS THE SPRAWLING SUPER-SUBURB THAT IS LOS ANGELES....!
THE BUILDINGS HERE AREN'T AS *TALL* AS THE ONES IN NEW YORK--DON'T GIVE ME AS MUCH ROOM FOR *SWINGING!*
BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO *DO*--'CAUSE THEY'RE ALL I'VE *GOT!*
I ONLY PRAY THAT I CAN *REACH* KAREN--IN *TIME!*
13

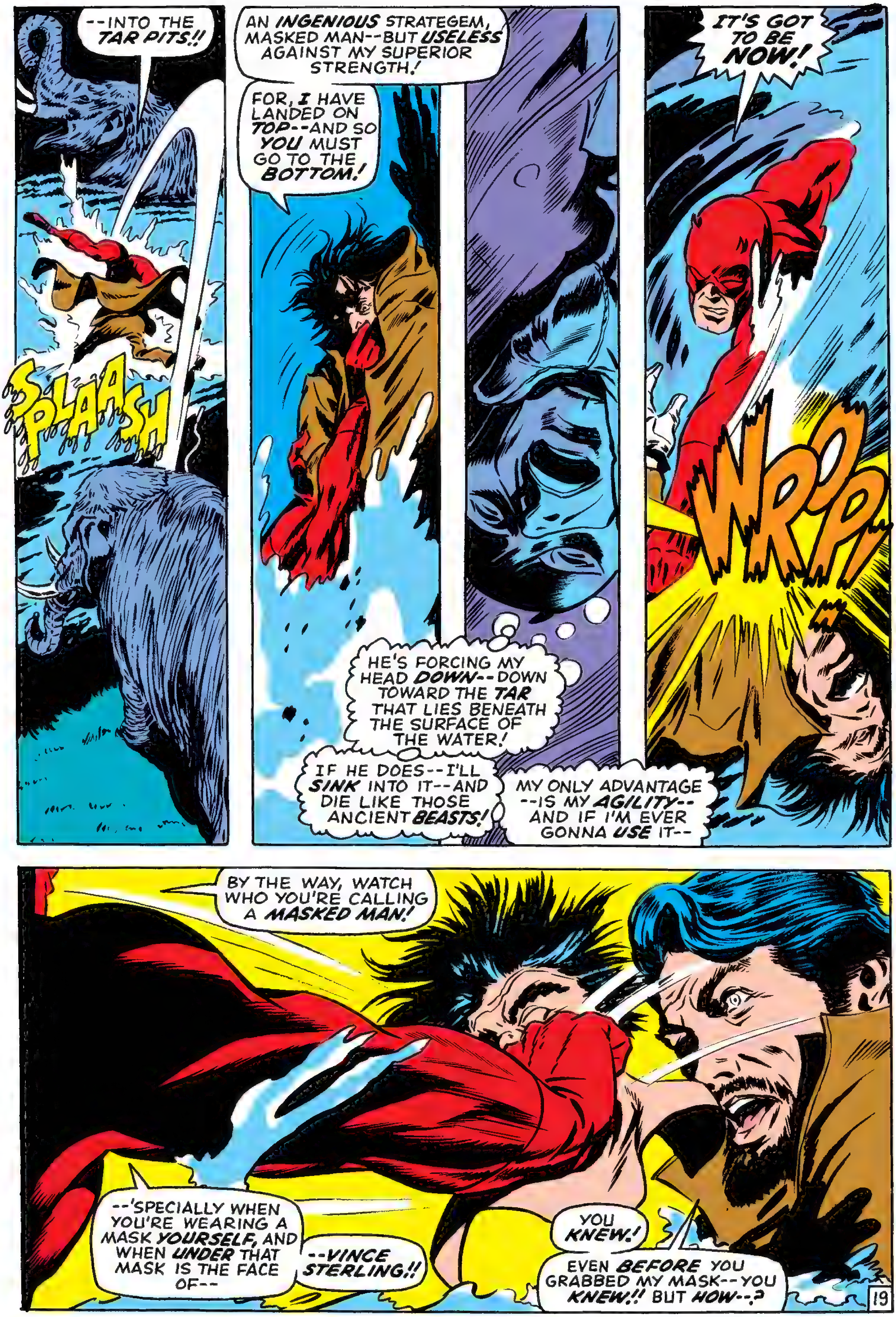
UNTOLD AGES AGO, LUMBERING MAMMOTHS AND SNARLING SABRE-TOOTHS ROAMED THE TRACKLESS WILDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA...SOME OF THEM BECOMING ENTRAPPED AND SINKING TO THEIR DEATHS IN TREACHEROUS TAR PITS THERE! TODAY, A MODERN MUSEUM HAS RISEN UP OVER THOSE TAR PITS...
AND TONIGHT...AT THIS VERY HOUR... A GIRL NAMED KAREN PAGE KEEPS A FATEFUL RENDEZVOUS THEREIN....!
I WONDER WHY LESTER SLIPPED THAT NOTE IN MY PURSE... INSTEAD OF MERELY ASKING ME TO MEET HIM HERE!?
BUT, YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, DON'T YOU, KAREN? HE'S SUCH A SHY LITTLE MAN!
AT LEAST, THAT'S THE WAY HE SEEMS!
WELL, SHY OR NOT, TWO HOURS IS LONG ENOUGH TO WAIT!
THE MUSEUM'S EMPTY NOW ...AND IT'S CLOSING TIME!
I'D BETTER LEAVE, BEFORE THEY LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE ME...
...IN THE DARK!
THE LIGHTS WENT OUT...WITHOUT EVEN A WARNING FROM A GUARD!
IF THIS IS SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE, I'M NOT LAUGHING!
...ESPECIALLY WHILE A MURDERING MADMAN IS RUNNING AROUND L.A.!

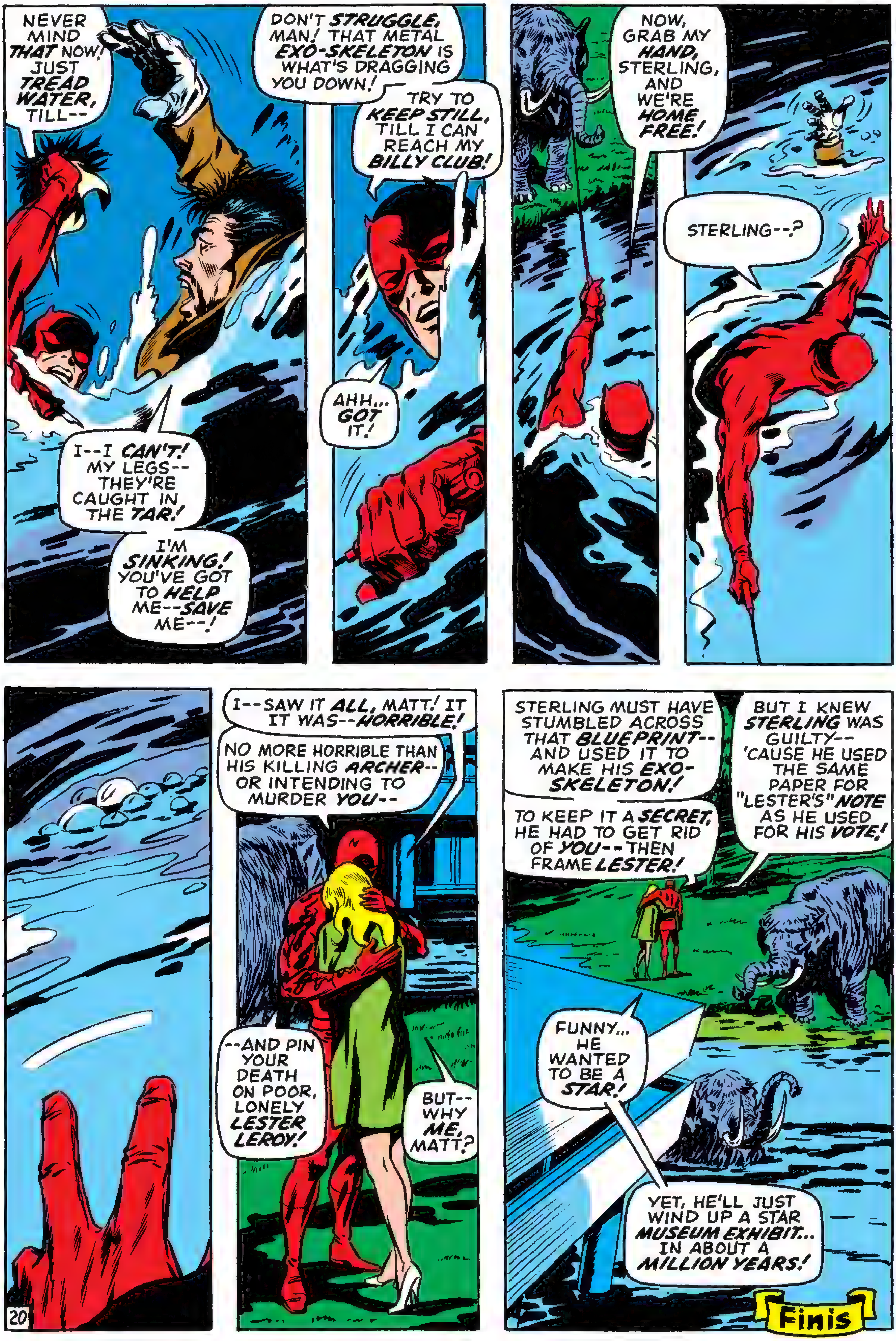

THE FRONT ENTRANCE IS-- LOCKED!
AND-- THERE'S STILL NOT A GUARD IN SIGHT!
MAYBE I'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK AT THE BACK OF THE MUSEUM!
THIS IS A LITTLE BETTER, ANYWAY! STILL NO GUARD... BUT AT LEAST I'M OUTSIDE!
BUT, THE TWO MAMMOTH MODELS DOWN THERE...THE PREHISTORIC TAR PITS OVER WHICH THE MUSEUM IS BUILT...
THEY ALL MAKE ME FEEL AS IF I'M LEAVING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY... WALKING INTO A WORLD OF SAVAGE, PRIMORDIAL TERROR!
OR, IS IT SOMETHING ELSE WHICH MAKES ME FEEL THAT I'M BEING WATCHED?
SHAPE UP, KAREN! YOU'RE NOT A LITTLE GIRL WATCHING "CREATURE FEATURES" NOW!
YOU'RE JUST A GAL WHO GOT STOOD UP FOR A DATE WITH A GUY YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ANYWAY!
IF THAT'S THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENS TO YOU, THEN--
OUT FOR A STROLL, KAREN PAGE?
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF BROTHER BRIMSTONE TAGS ALONG!!
EEEEEEE


WHAT'S *THIS?* YOU SEEM TO HAVE *FAINTED!*
A *PITY*... FOR THAT MEANS YOU SHALL MISS THE *FINAL ACT* OF OUR MACABRE LITTLE MELODRAMA!
IN A WAY, YOUR FATE IS TO BE *ENVIED,* MY DEAR!
HOW *MANY* HUMAN BEINGS CAN MEET THEIR MAKER BENEATH LAYERS OF BLACK, CLINGING *TAR*...
...SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT *ANOTHER* CIVILIZATION MAY FIND THEIR REMAINS... A *MILLION YEARS* HENCE?
NOT *EVERY* HUMAN BEING *WANTS* TO, BRIMMY!
DWAK!
AND NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR *ATTENTION,* GRUESOME...
HOW'S ABOUT *SURRENDERING,* AND SAVING US BOTH A SET OF *BRUISED KNUCKLES?*
DAREDEVIL!
I DIDN'T EXPECT *YOU* TO FIND ME HERE... BEFORE I FINISHED MY *WORK!*
BUT YOUR BOLD BRAGGADOCIO WILL NET YOU *NOTHING!*


FOR, *TWO* BODIES AS WELL AS *ONE* MAY BE HIDDEN BY THE DARK VASTNESS OF *LABREA!*
KEEP FORGETTING... HOW *FAST* THIS GUY IS!
IT'S THAT *EXO-SKELETON*...THE SAME THING THAT GIVES HIM HIS TREMENDOUS *STRENGTH!*
NOTHING TO *SAY*, FOOL?
OR HAVE YOU PERHAPS REALIZED THAT THE *HUNTER*... HAS JUST BECOME THE *HUNTED?*
NOW, ONE TELLING *BLOW* SHALL--
MISSED!
PLOOMF!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A *GREEN THUMB*, BRIMSTONE!
BUT, IT'S *SEEDS* YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PLANT... NOT YOUR WHOLE FURSH-LUGGINER *FIST!*
WOOM!
AND NOW, WHILE YOU DIGEST *THAT* LITTLE TIDBIT OF WISDOM...


HERE'S A LITTLE STUNT I LEARNED FROM MY OLD BUDDY **KA-ZAR!**
AND **MAN,** COULD I USE THAT BUCK-TOOTHED **PUSSYCAT** OF HIS RIGHT NOW!
SWISSH!
IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN **THAT** TO SAVE YOU, YOU OVER-RATED CLOWN...
...FROM THE GRASP OF **BROTHER BRIMSTONE!!**
UNNHH! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! THAT'S A STEEL-FINGERED **GOTCHA,** ALL RIGHT--!
IT **WORKED!** HE **LEAPED** AT ME--JUST AS MY SWING HAD REACHED ITS **APEX!**
NOW, IF I JUST RELEASE MY **BILLY CLUB** AT THE RIGHT INSTANT, THE **MOMENTUM** SHOULD CARRY US--


--INTO THE TAR PITS!!
SPLAASH
AN INGENIOUS STRATEGEM, MASKED MAN--BUT USELESS AGAINST MY SUPERIOR STRENGTH!
FOR, I HAVE LANDED ON TOP--AND SO YOU MUST GO TO THE BOTTOM!
HE'S FORCING MY HEAD DOWN--DOWN TOWARD THE TAR THAT LIES BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE WATER!
IF HE DOES--I'LL SINK INTO IT--AND DIE LIKE THOSE ANCIENT BEASTS!
MY ONLY ADVANTAGE--IS MY AGILITY--AND IF I'M EVER GONNA USE IT--
IT'S GOT TO BE NOW!
WROOP!
BY THE WAY, WATCH WHO YOU'RE CALLING A MASKED MAN!
--'SPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE WEARING A MASK YOURSELF, AND WHEN UNDER THAT MASK IS THE FACE OF--
--VINCE STERLING!!
YOU KNEW!
EVEN BEFORE YOU GRABBED MY MASK--YOU KNEW!! BUT HOW--?

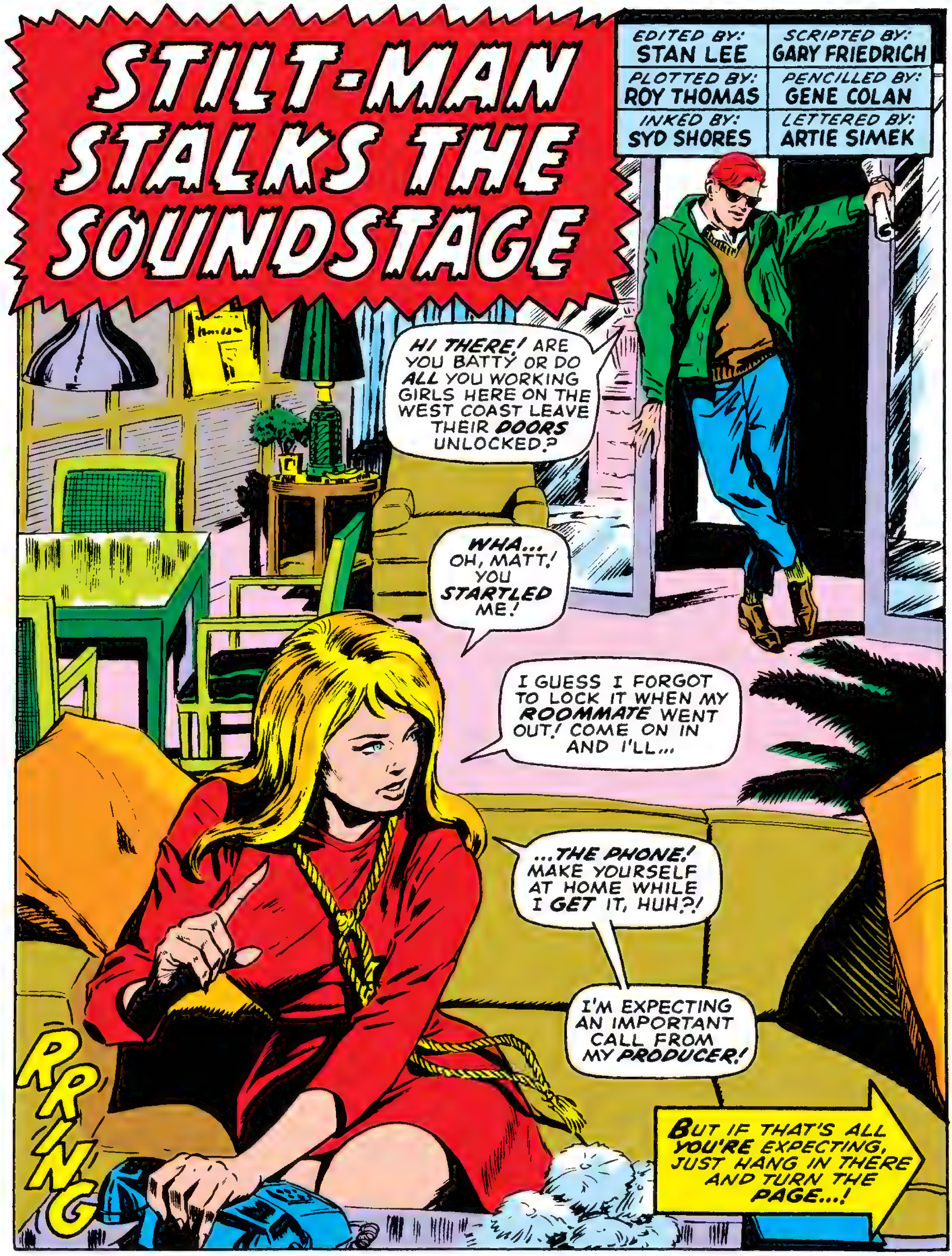

NEVER MIND THAT NOW! JUST TREAD WATER, TILL--
I--I CAN'T! MY LEGS--THEY'RE CAUGHT IN THE TAR!
I'M SINKING! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME--SAVE ME--!
DON'T STRUGGLE, MAN! THAT METAL EXO-SKELETON IS WHAT'S DRAGGING YOU DOWN!
TRY TO KEEP STILL, TILL I CAN REACH MY BILLY CLUB!
AHH... GOT IT!
NOW, GRAB MY HAND, STERLING, AND WE'RE HOME FREE!
STERLING--?
20
I--SAW IT ALL, MATT! IT IT WAS--HORRIBLE!
NO MORE HORRIBLE THAN HIS KILLING ARCHER--OR INTENDING TO MURDER YOU--
--AND PIN YOUR DEATH ON POOR, LONELY LESTER LEROY!
BUT--WHY ME, MATT?
STERLING MUST HAVE STUMBLED ACROSS THAT BLUEPRINT--AND USED IT TO MAKE HIS EXO-SKELETON!
TO KEEP IT A SECRET, HE HAD TO GET RID OF YOU--THEN FRAME LESTER!
BUT I KNEW STERLING WAS GUILTY--'CAUSE HE USED THE SAME PAPER FOR "LESTER'S" NOTE AS HE USED FOR HIS VOTE!
FUNNY... HE WANTED TO BE A STAR!
YET, HE'LL JUST WIND UP A STAR MUSEUM EXHIBIT... IN ABOUT A MILLION YEARS!
Finis

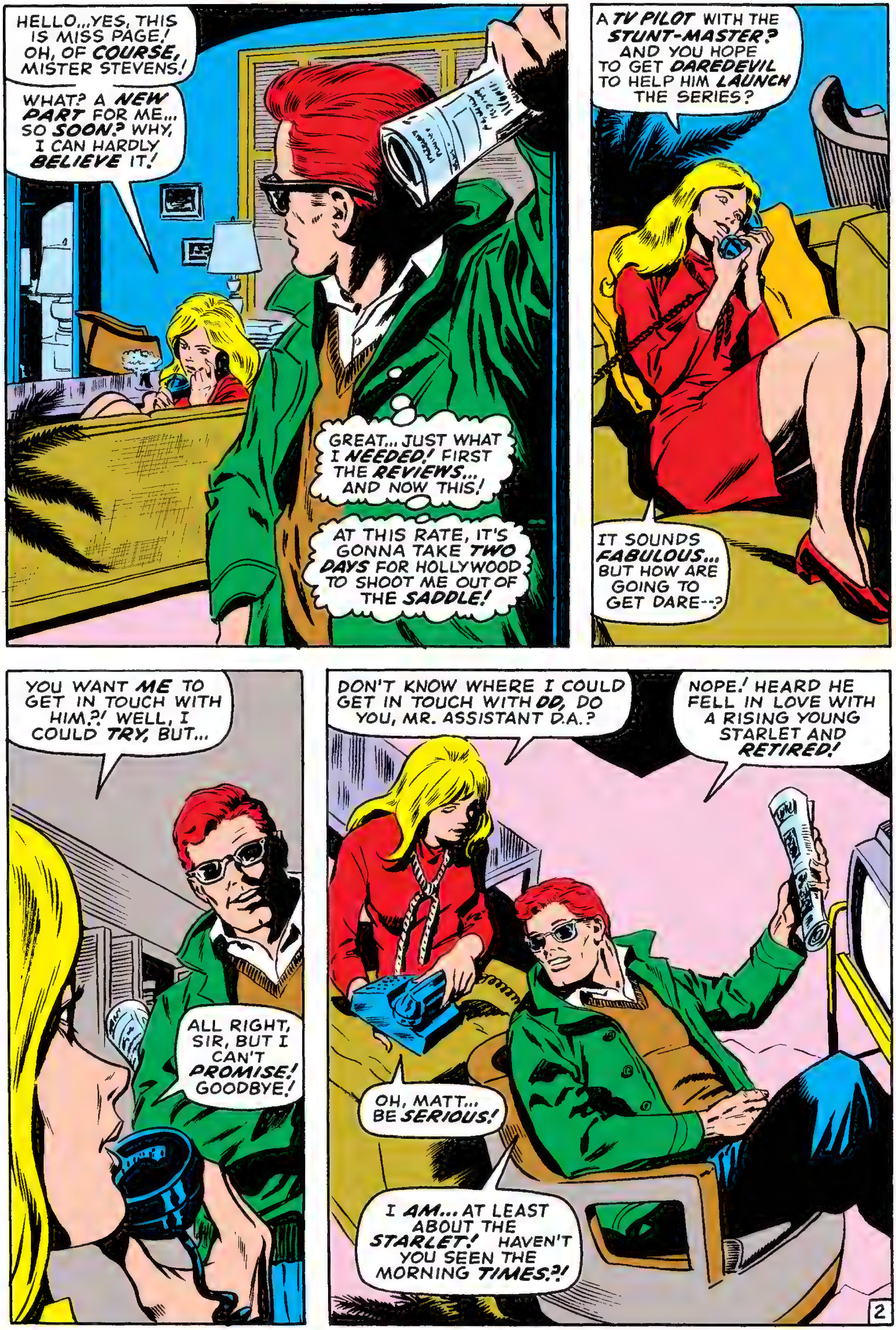
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
CC
67
AUG
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
GET OFF THE STREETS! THE STILT-MAN'S BACK IN TOWN!!
ALL RIGHT, DD-- I FINISHED OFF YOUR BUDDY, THE STUNT-MASTER!
AND... YOU'RE NEXT!

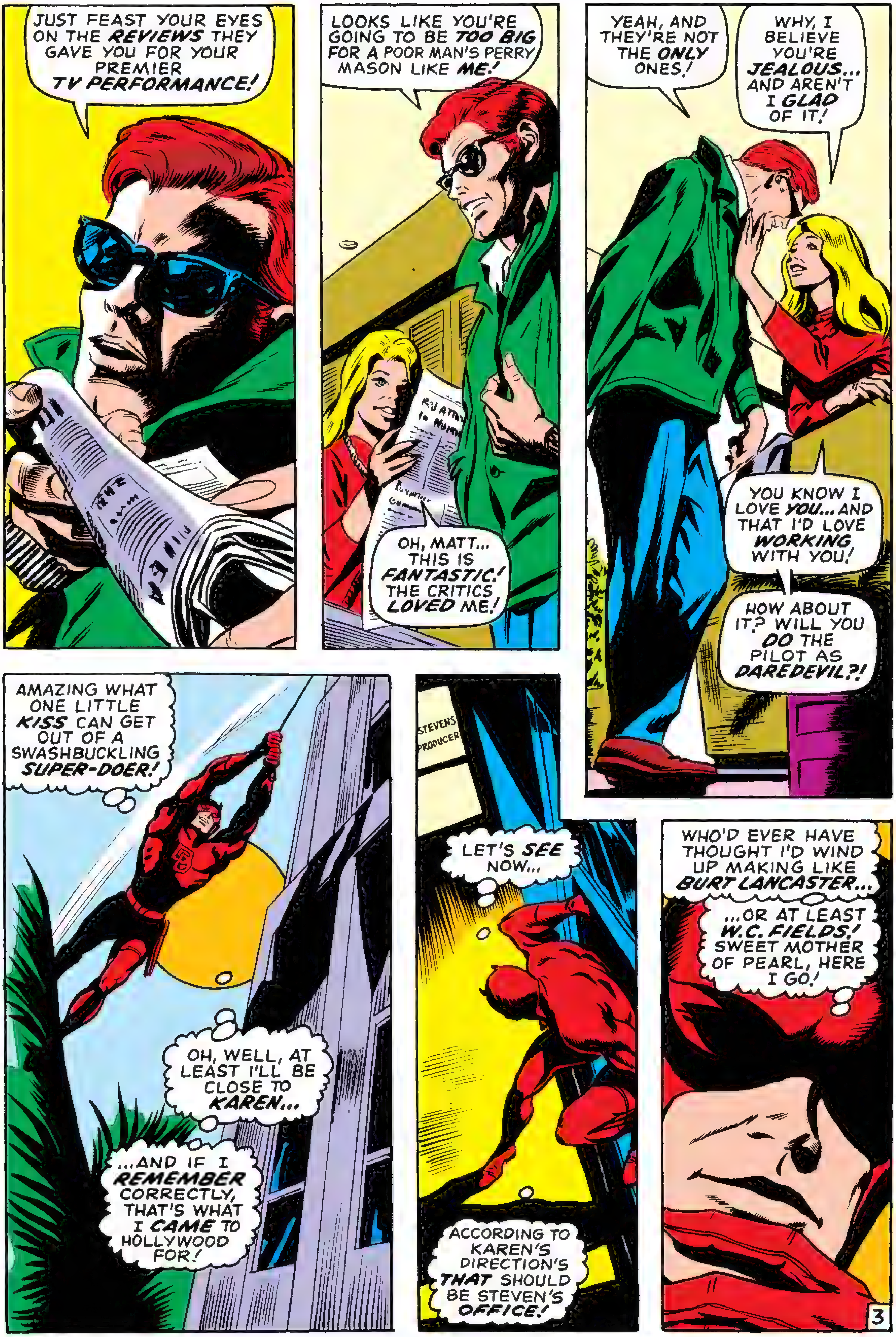
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

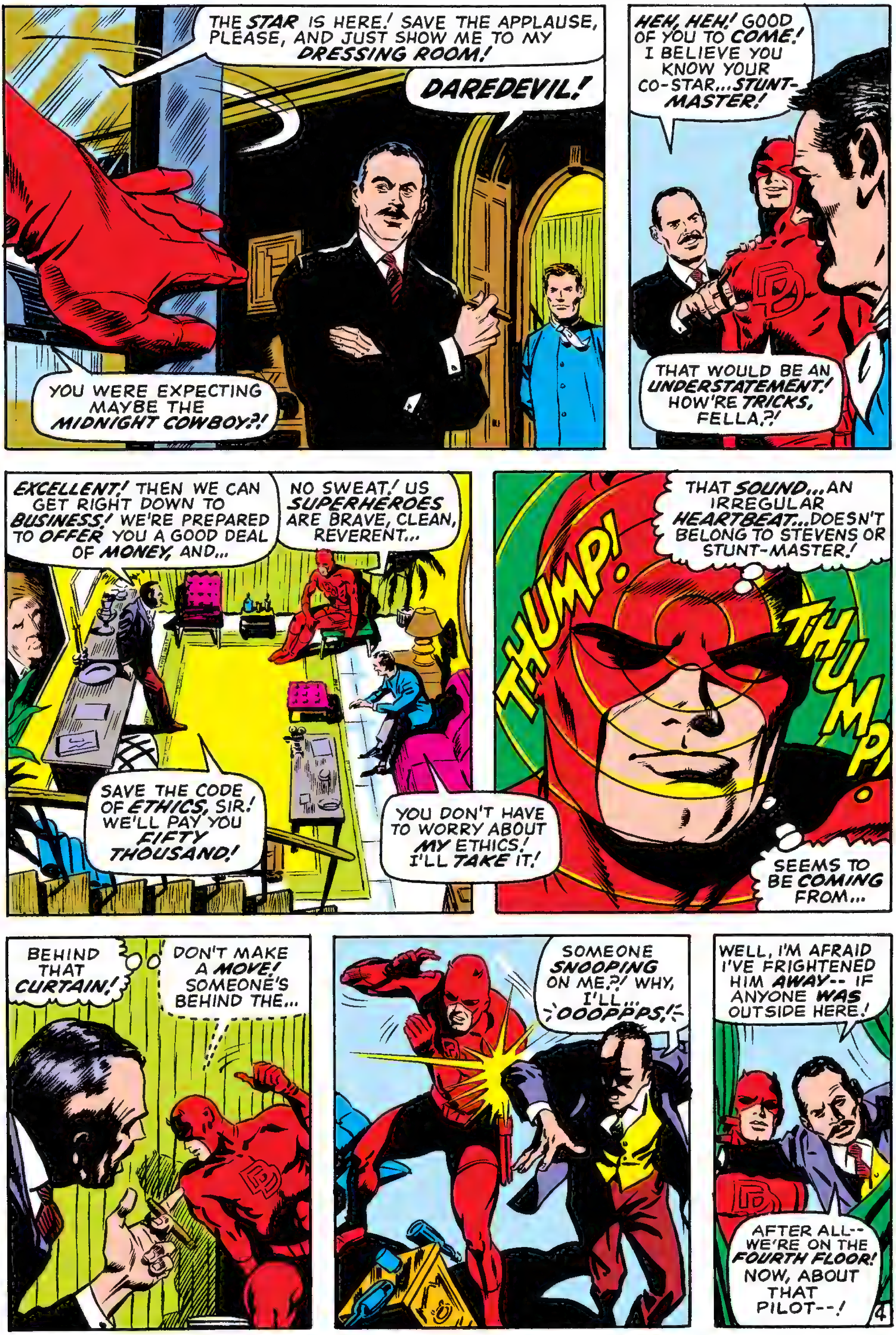
STILT-MAN STALKS THE SOUNDSTAGE

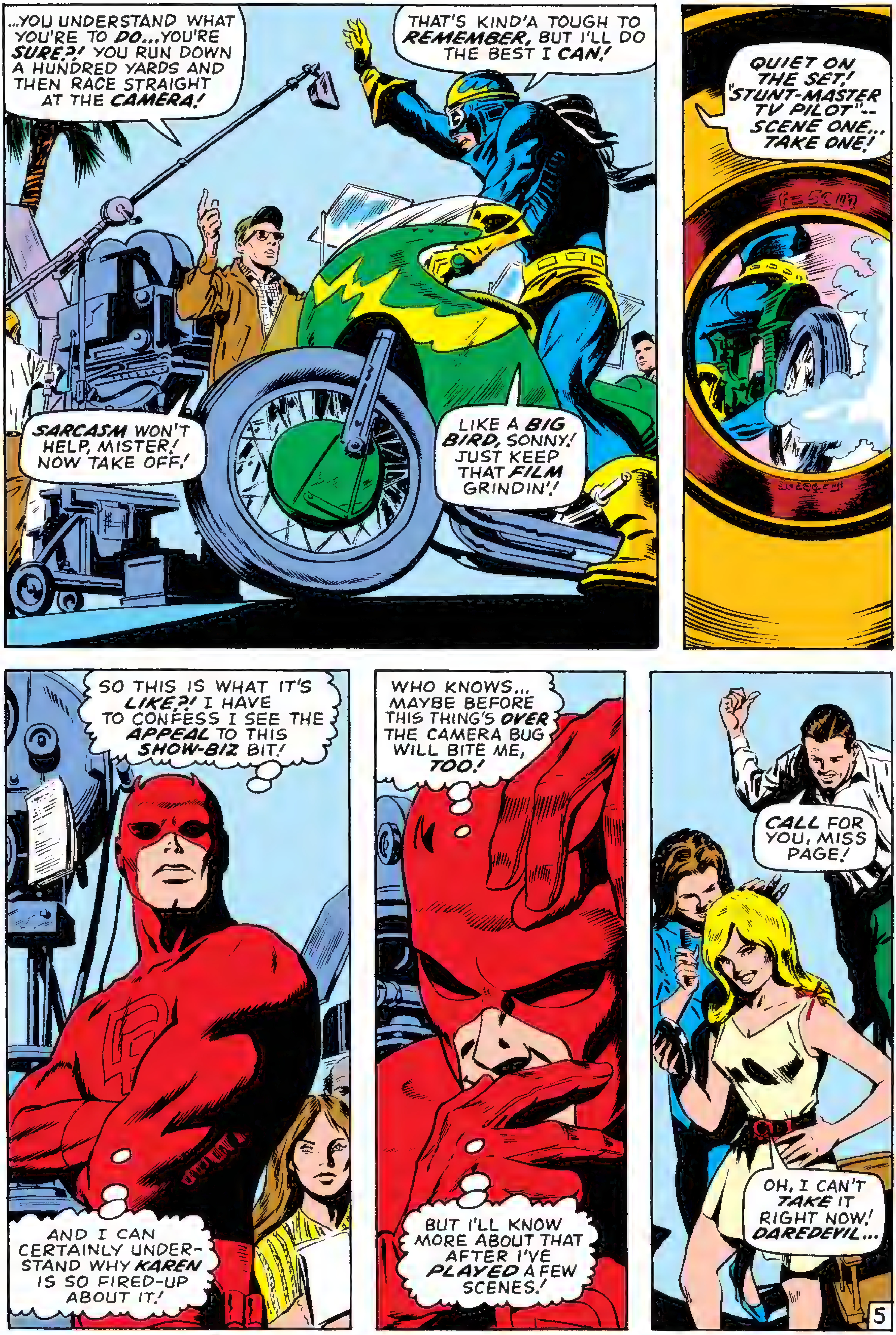
EDITED BY: STAN LEE
SCRIPTED BY: GARY FRIEDRICH
PLOTTED BY: ROY THOMAS
PENCILLED BY: GENE COLAN
INKED BY: SYD SHORES
LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK

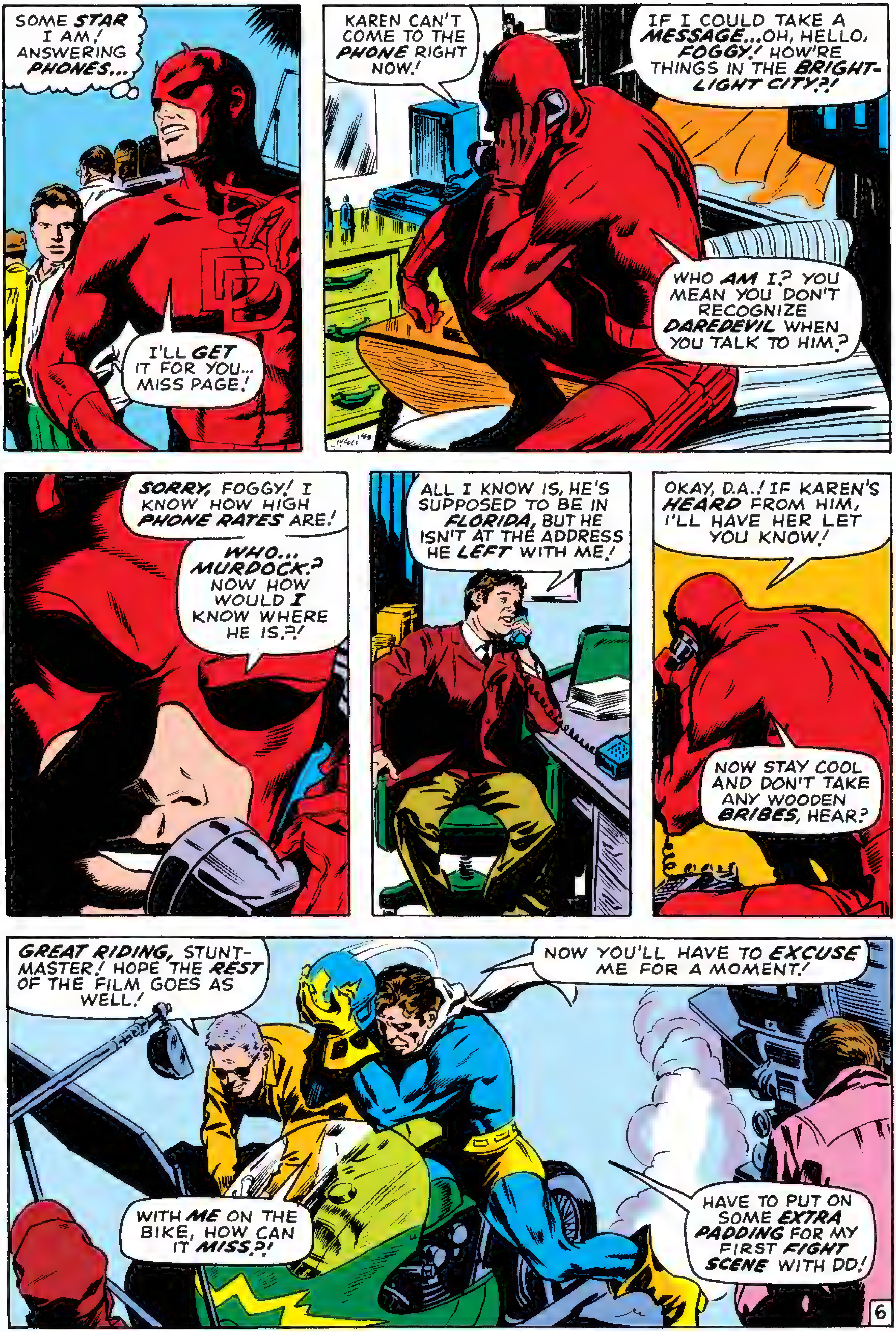

HI THERE! ARE YOU BATTY OR DO ALL YOU WORKING GIRLS HERE ON THE WEST COAST LEAVE THEIR DOORS UNLOCKED?
WHA... OH, MATT! YOU STARTLED ME!
I GUESS I FORGOT TO LOCK IT WHEN MY ROOMMATE WENT OUT! COME ON IN AND I'LL...
...THE PHONE! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME WHILE I GET IT, HUH?!
I'M EXPECTING AN IMPORTANT CALL FROM MY PRODUCER!
RRING
BUT IF THAT'S ALL YOU'RE EXPECTING, JUST HANG IN THERE AND TURN THE PAGE...!

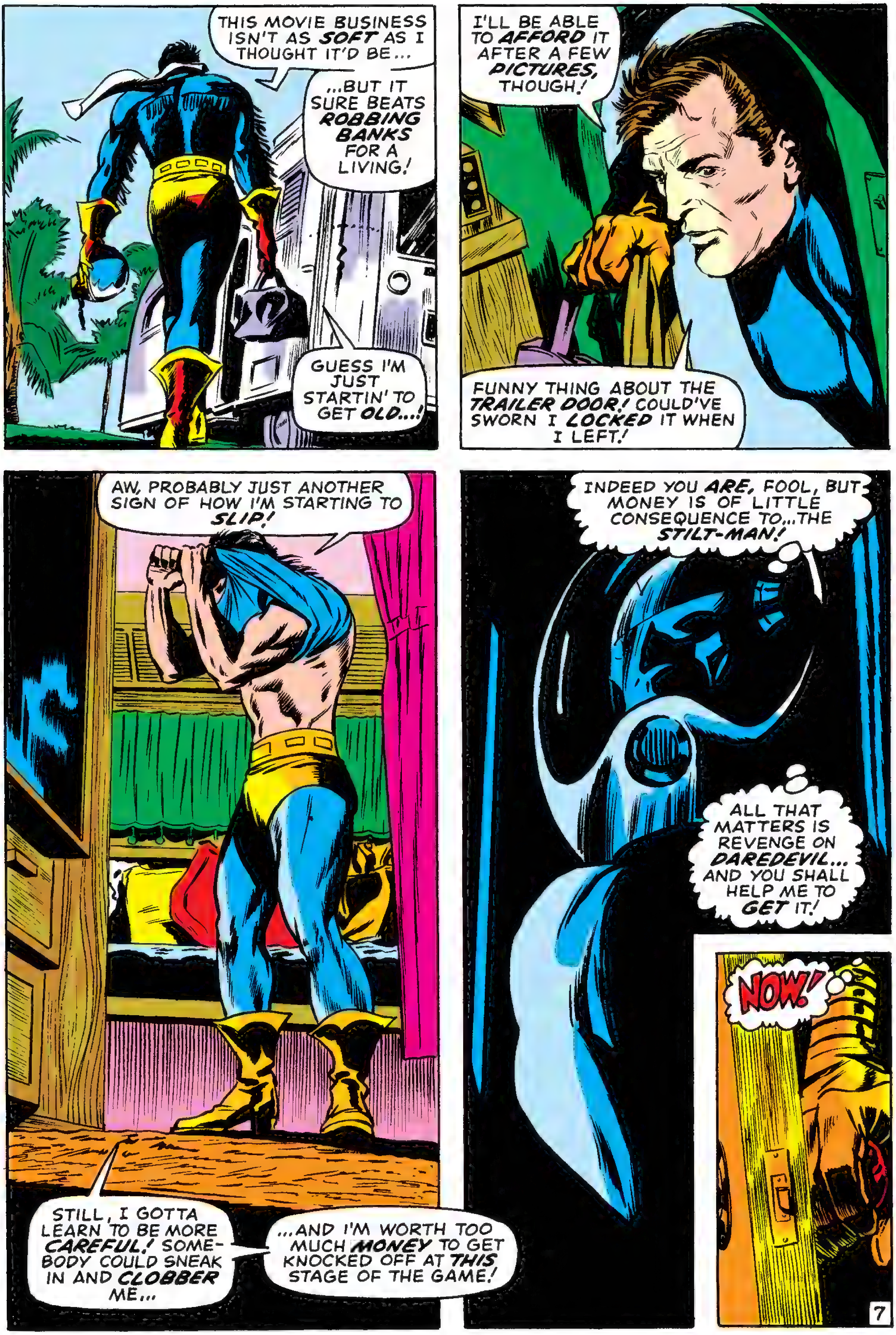

HELLO...YES, THIS IS MISS PAGE! OH, OF **COURSE,** MISTER STEVENS!
WHAT? A **NEW PART** FOR ME... SO **SOON?** WHY, I CAN HARDLY **BELIEVE** IT!
GREAT... JUST WHAT I **NEEDED!** FIRST THE **REVIEWS...** AND NOW THIS!
AT THIS RATE, IT'S GONNA TAKE **TWO DAYS** FOR HOLLYWOOD TO SHOOT ME OUT OF THE **SADDLE!**
A **TV PILOT** WITH THE **STUNT-MASTER?** AND YOU HOPE TO GET **DAREDEVIL** TO HELP HIM **LAUNCH** THE SERIES?
IT SOUNDS **FABULOUS...** BUT HOW ARE GOING TO GET DARE--?
YOU WANT **ME** TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM?! WELL, I COULD **TRY,** BUT...
ALL RIGHT, SIR, BUT I CAN'T **PROMISE!** GOODBYE!
DON'T KNOW WHERE I COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH **DD,** DO YOU, MR. ASSISTANT D.A.?
NOPE! HEARD HE FELL IN LOVE WITH A RISING YOUNG STARLET AND **RETIRED!**
OH, MATT... BE **SERIOUS!**
I **AM...** AT LEAST ABOUT THE **STARLET!** HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THE MORNING **TIMES?!**

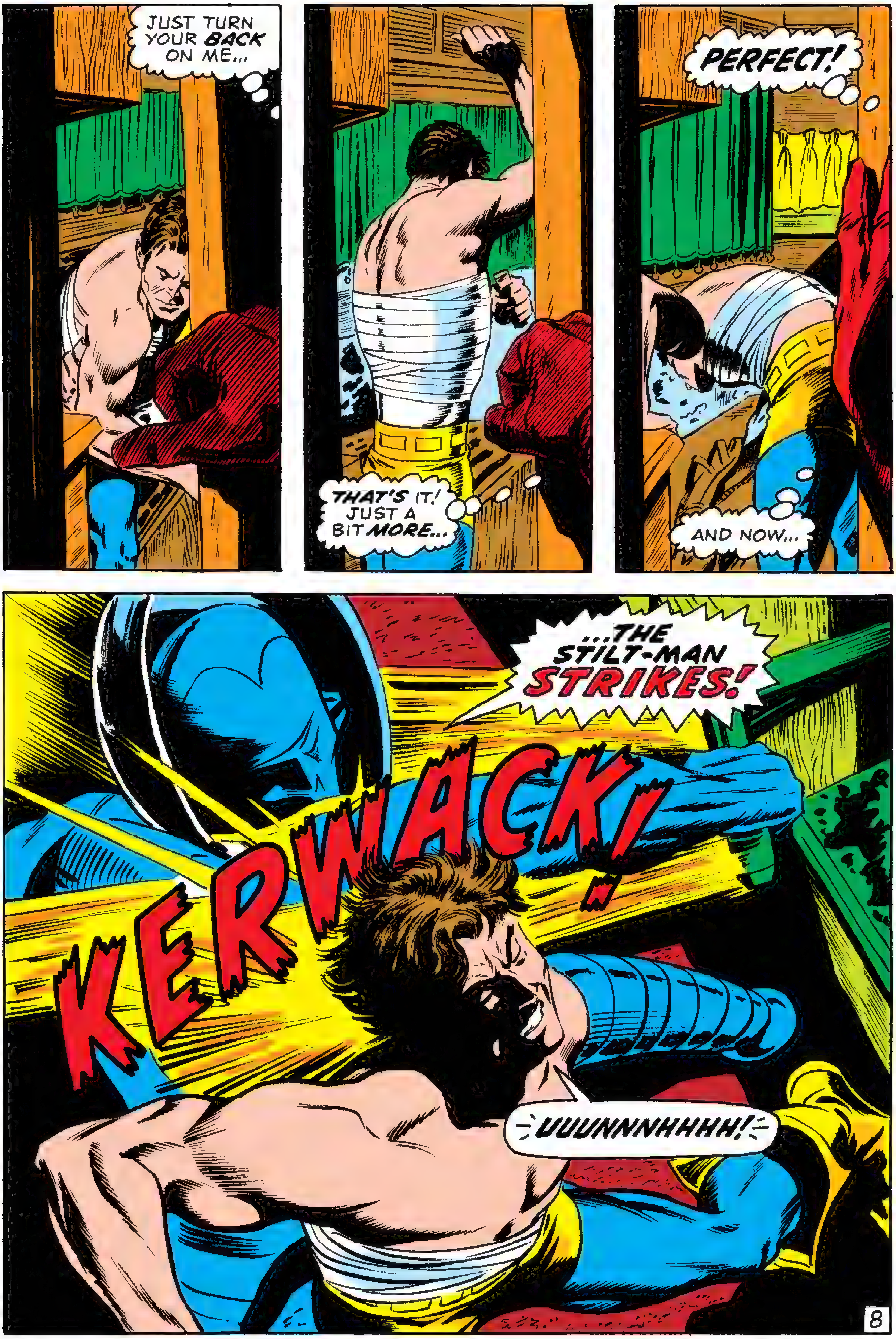

JUST FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE *REVIEWS* THEY GAVE YOU FOR YOUR PREMIER *TV PERFORMANCE!*
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE *TOO BIG* FOR A POOR MAN'S PERRY MASON LIKE *ME!*
OH, MATT... THIS IS *FANTASTIC!* THE CRITICS *LOVED* ME!
YEAH, AND THEY'RE NOT THE *ONLY* ONES!
WHY, I BELIEVE YOU'RE *JEALOUS*... AND AREN'T I *GLAD* OF IT!
YOU KNOW I LOVE *YOU*... AND THAT I'D LOVE *WORKING* WITH YOU!
HOW ABOUT IT? WILL YOU *DO* THE PILOT AS *DAREDEVIL?!*
AMAZING WHAT ONE LITTLE *KISS* CAN GET OUT OF A SWASHBUCKLING *SUPER-DOER!*
OH, WELL, AT LEAST I'LL BE CLOSE TO *KAREN*...
...AND IF I *REMEMBER* CORRECTLY, THAT'S WHAT I *CAME* TO HOLLYWOOD FOR!
STEVENS PRODUCER
LET'S *SEE* NOW...
ACCORDING TO KAREN'S DIRECTION'S *THAT* SHOULD BE STEVEN'S *OFFICE!*
WHO'D EVER HAVE THOUGHT I'D WIND UP MAKING LIKE *BURT LANCASTER*...
...OR AT LEAST *W.C. FIELDS!* SWEET MOTHER OF PEARL, HERE I GO!

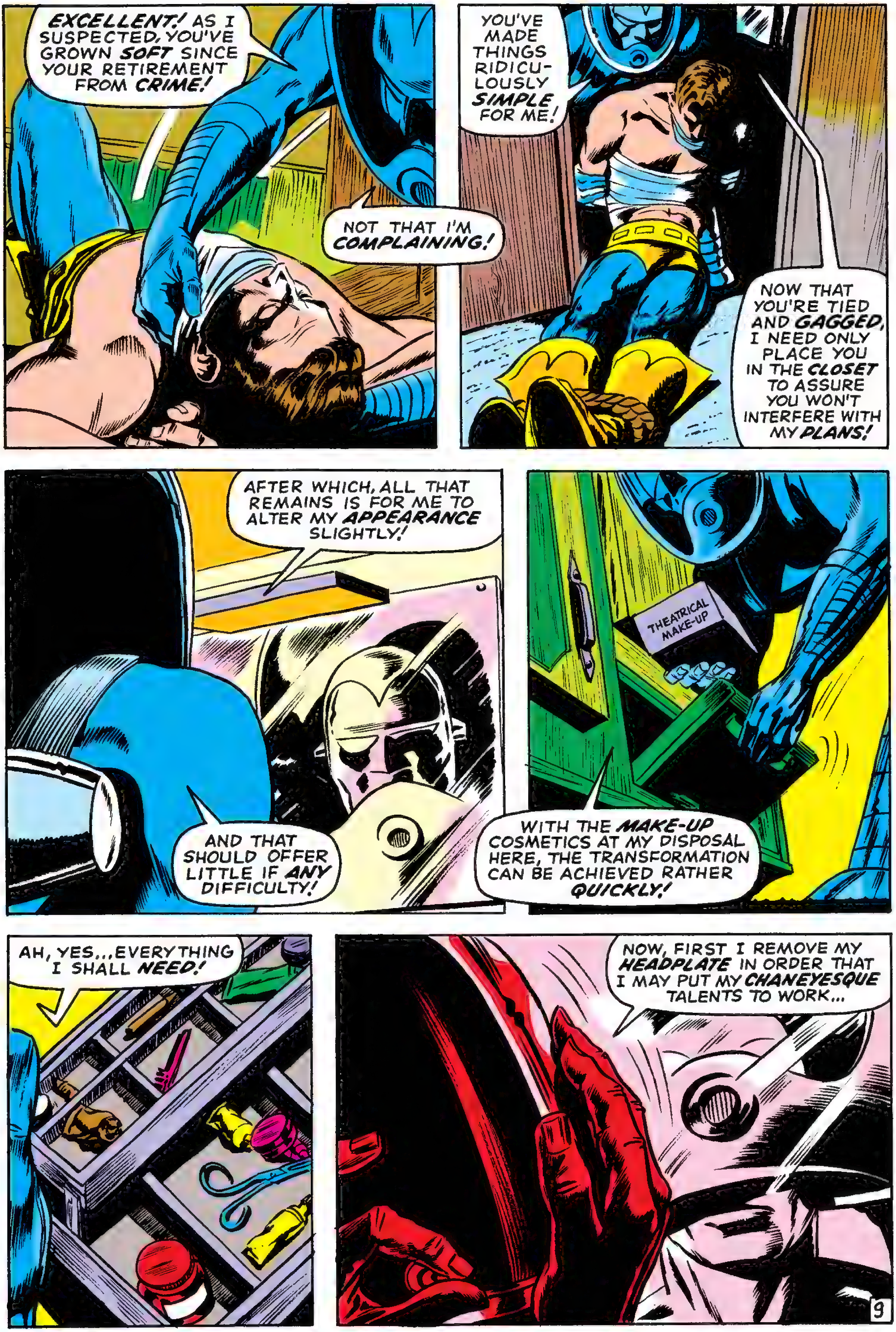

THE STAR IS HERE! SAVE THE APPLAUSE, PLEASE, AND JUST SHOW ME TO MY DRESSING ROOM!
DAREDEVIL!
YOU WERE EXPECTING MAYBE THE MIDNIGHT COWBOY?!
HEH, HEH! GOOD OF YOU TO COME! I BELIEVE YOU KNOW YOUR CO-STAR... STUNT-MASTER!
THAT WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT! HOW'RE TRICKS, FELLA?!
EXCELLENT! THEN WE CAN GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS! WE'RE PREPARED TO OFFER YOU A GOOD DEAL OF MONEY, AND...
NO SWEAT! US SUPERHEROES ARE BRAVE, CLEAN, REVERENT...
SAVE THE CODE OF ETHICS, SIR! WE'LL PAY YOU FIFTY THOUSAND!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY ETHICS! I'LL TAKE IT!
THAT SOUND... AN IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT... DOESN'T BELONG TO STEVENS OR STUNT-MASTER!
THUMP!
THUMP!
SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM...
BEHIND THAT CURTAIN!
DON'T MAKE A MOVE! SOMEONE'S BEHIND THE...
SOMEONE SNOOPING ON ME?! WHY, I'LL... OOOPPPS!
WELL, I'M AFRAID I'VE FRIGHTENED HIM AWAY-- IF ANYONE WAS OUTSIDE HERE!
AFTER ALL-- WE'RE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR! NOW, ABOUT THAT PILOT--!

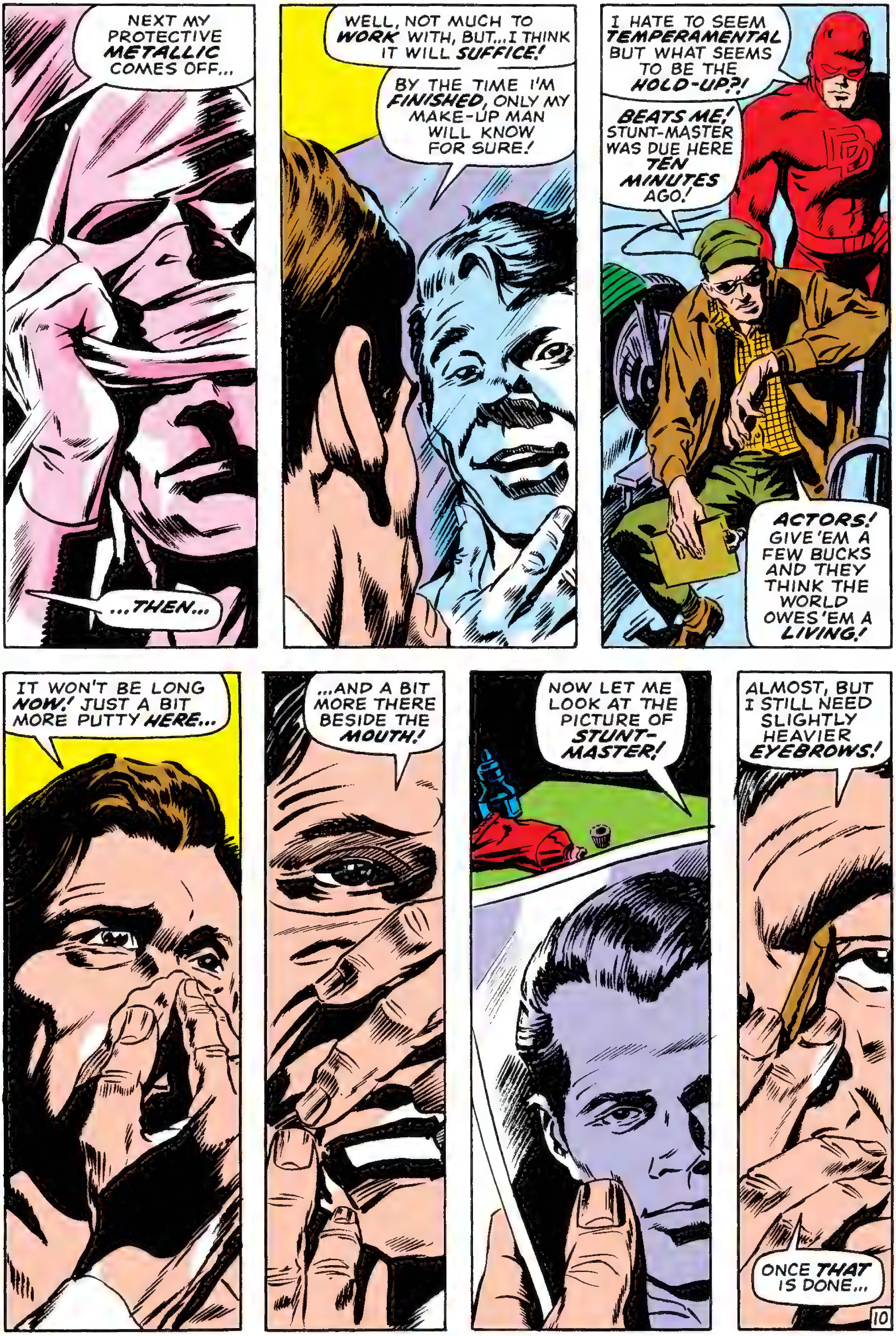

...YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TO *DO*...YOU'RE *SURE?!* YOU RUN DOWN A HUNDRED YARDS AND THEN RACE STRAIGHT AT THE *CAMERA!*
THAT'S KIND'A TOUGH TO *REMEMBER,* BUT I'LL DO THE BEST I *CAN!*
SARCASM WON'T HELP, MISTER! NOW TAKE OFF!
LIKE A *BIG BIRD,* SONNY! JUST KEEP THAT *FILM* GRINDIN'!
QUIET ON THE SET! "STUNT-MASTER TV PILOT"-- SCENE ONE... TAKE ONE!
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S *LIKE?!* I HAVE TO CONFESS I SEE THE *APPEAL* TO THIS *SHOW-BIZ* BIT!
AND I CAN CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND WHY *KAREN* IS SO FIRED-UP ABOUT IT!
WHO KNOWS... MAYBE BEFORE THIS THING'S *OVER* THE CAMERA BUG WILL BITE ME, *TOO!*
BUT I'LL KNOW MORE ABOUT THAT AFTER I'VE *PLAYED* A FEW SCENES!
CALL FOR YOU, MISS PAGE!
OH, I CAN'T *TAKE* IT RIGHT NOW! *DAREDEVIL...*

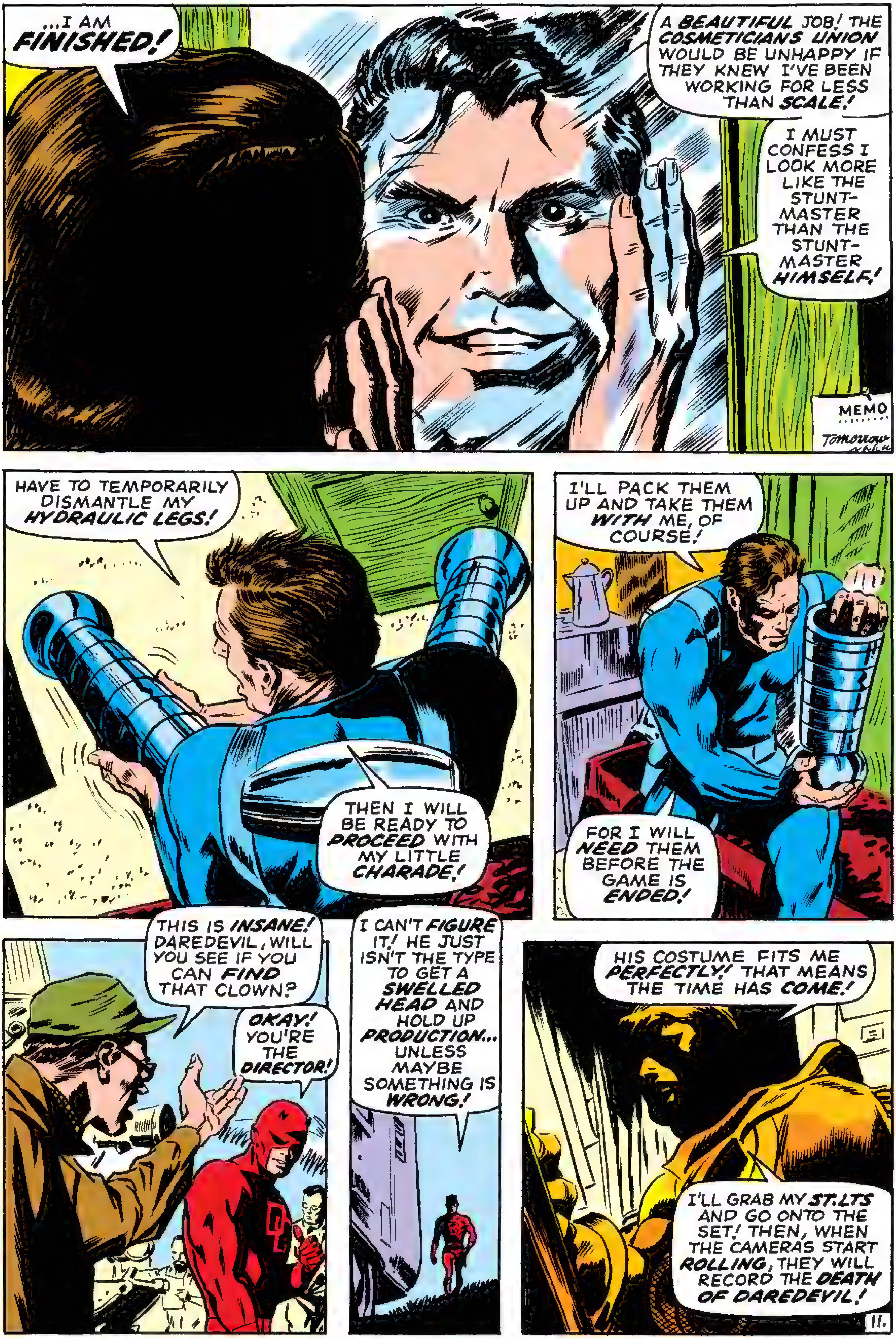

SOME STAR I AM! ANSWERING PHONES...
I'LL GET IT FOR YOU... MISS PAGE!
KAREN CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW!
IF I COULD TAKE A MESSAGE...OH, HELLO, FOGGY! HOW'RE THINGS IN THE BRIGHT-LIGHT CITY?!
WHO AM I? YOU MEAN YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE DAREDEVIL WHEN YOU TALK TO HIM?
SORRY, FOGGY! I KNOW HOW HIGH PHONE RATES ARE!
WHO... MURDOCK? NOW HOW WOULD I KNOW WHERE HE IS?!
ALL I KNOW IS, HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN FLORIDA, BUT HE ISN'T AT THE ADDRESS HE LEFT WITH ME!
OKAY, D.A.! IF KAREN'S HEARD FROM HIM, I'LL HAVE HER LET YOU KNOW!
NOW STAY COOL AND DON'T TAKE ANY WOODEN BRIBES, HEAR?
GREAT RIDING, STUNT-MASTER! HOPE THE REST OF THE FILM GOES AS WELL!
NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT!
WITH ME ON THE BIKE, HOW CAN IT MISS?!
HAVE TO PUT ON SOME EXTRA PADDING FOR MY FIRST FIGHT SCENE WITH DD!

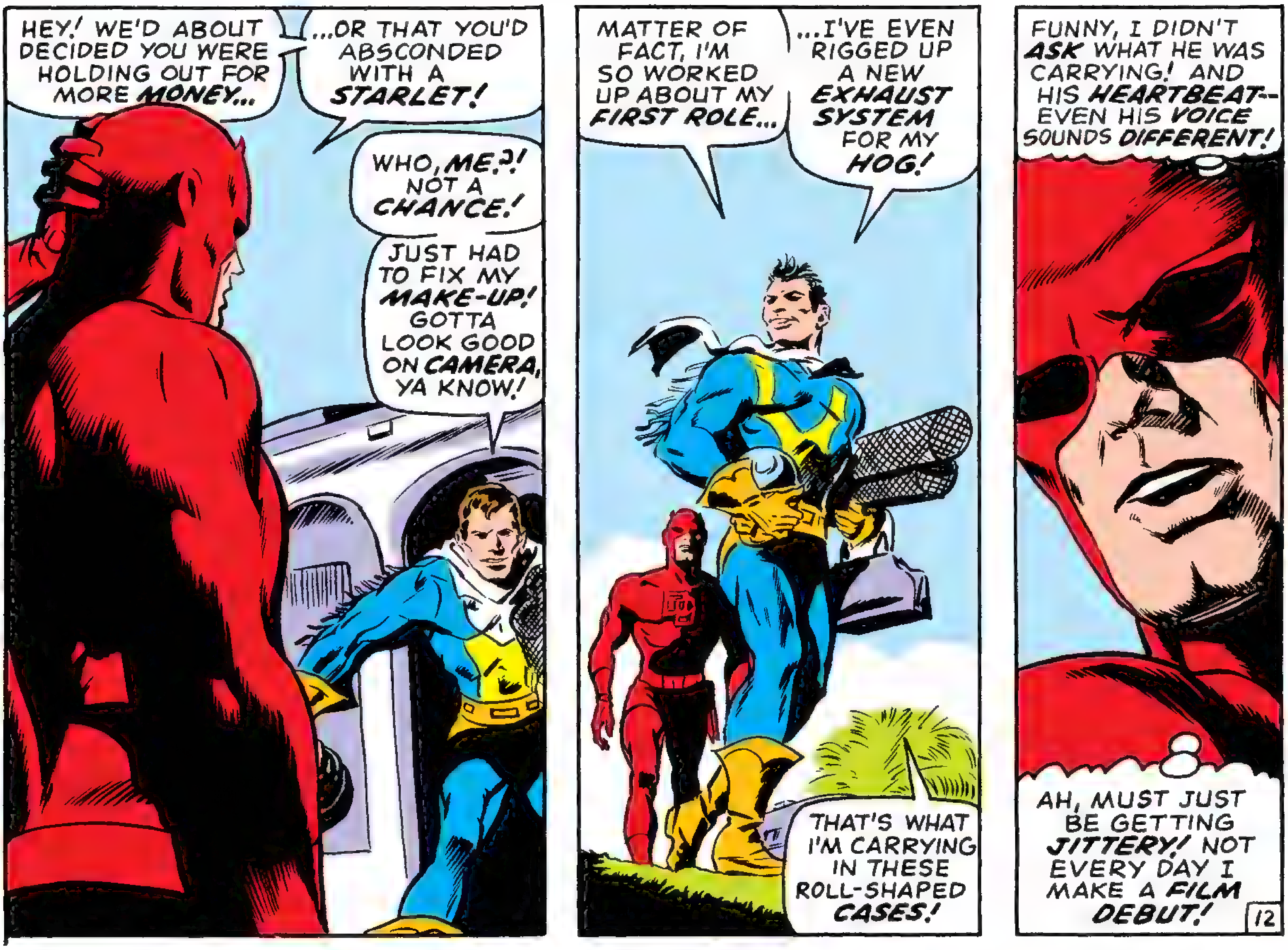

THIS MOVIE BUSINESS ISN'T AS SOFT AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE...
...BUT IT SURE BEATS ROBBING BANKS FOR A LIVING!
GUESS I'M JUST STARTIN' TO GET OLD...!
I'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD IT AFTER A FEW PICTURES, THOUGH!
FUNNY THING ABOUT THE TRAILER DOOR! COULD'VE SWORN I LOCKED IT WHEN I LEFT!
AW, PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER SIGN OF HOW I'M STARTING TO SLIP!
STILL, I GOTTA LEARN TO BE MORE CAREFUL! SOMEBODY COULD SNEAK IN AND CLOBBER ME...
...AND I'M WORTH TOO MUCH MONEY TO GET KNOCKED OFF AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME!
INDEED YOU ARE, FOOL, BUT MONEY IS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE TO...THE STILT-MAN!
ALL THAT MATTERS IS REVENGE ON DAREDEVIL... AND YOU SHALL HELP ME TO GET IT!
NOW!

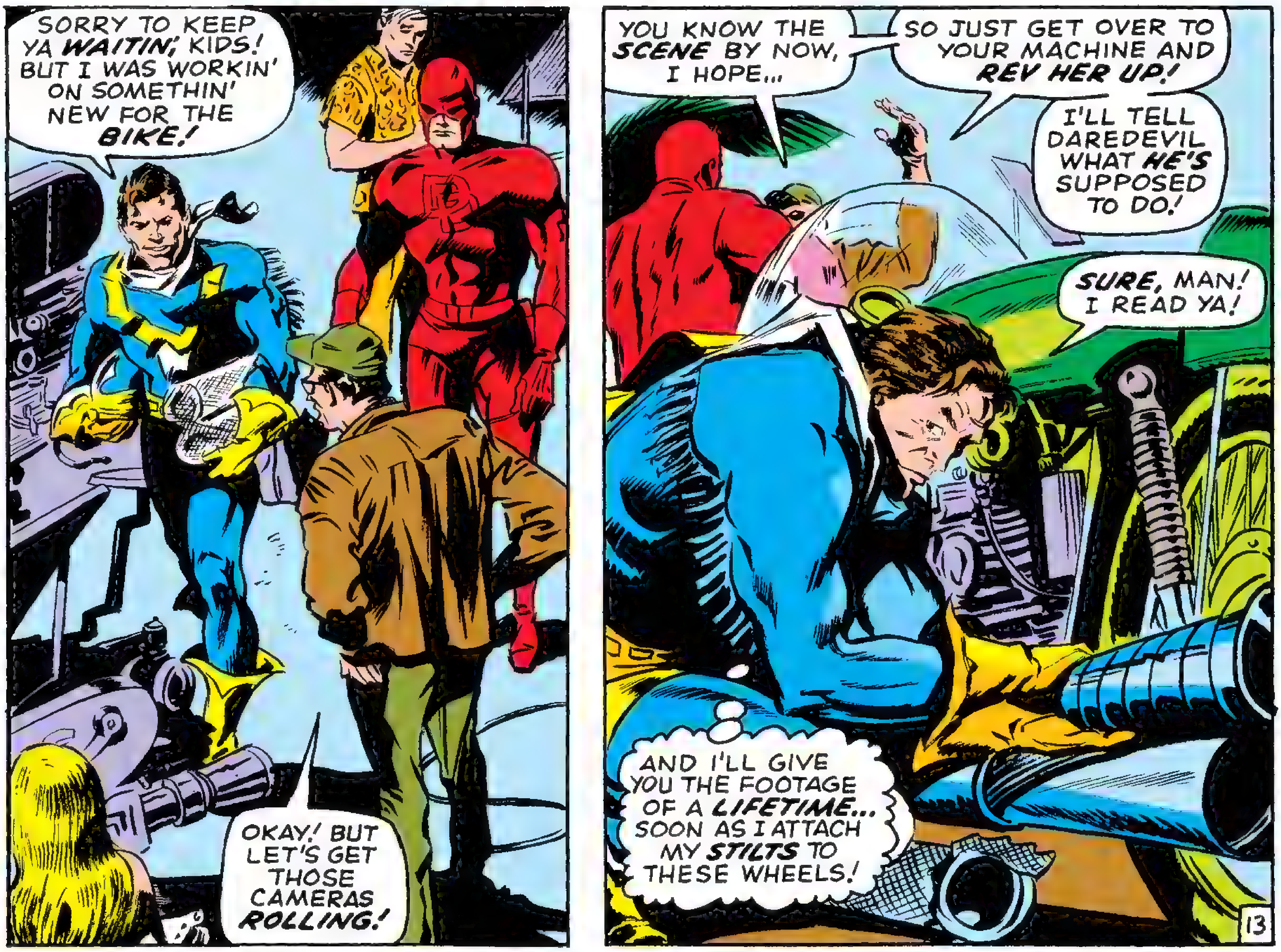

JUST TURN YOUR *BACK* ON ME...
THAT'S IT! JUST A BIT *MORE*...
PERFECT!
AND NOW...
...*THE STILT-MAN STRIKES!*
KERWACK!
UUUNNNHHHH!


EXCELLENT! AS I SUSPECTED, YOU'VE GROWN SOFT SINCE YOUR RETIREMENT FROM CRIME!
NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING!
YOU'VE MADE THINGS RIDICULOUSLY SIMPLE FOR ME!
NOW THAT YOU'RE TIED AND GAGGED, I NEED ONLY PLACE YOU IN THE CLOSET TO ASSURE YOU WON'T INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS!
AFTER WHICH, ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR ME TO ALTER MY APPEARANCE SLIGHTLY!
AND THAT SHOULD OFFER LITTLE IF ANY DIFFICULTY!
THEATRICAL MAKE-UP
WITH THE MAKE-UP COSMETICS AT MY DISPOSAL HERE, THE TRANSFORMATION CAN BE ACHIEVED RATHER QUICKLY!
AH, YES...EVERYTHING I SHALL NEED!
NOW, FIRST I REMOVE MY HEADPLATE IN ORDER THAT I MAY PUT MY CHANEYESQUE TALENTS TO WORK...


NEXT MY PROTECTIVE METALLIC COMES OFF...
...THEN...
WELL, NOT MUCH TO WORK WITH, BUT...I THINK IT WILL SUFFICE!
BY THE TIME I'M FINISHED, ONLY MY MAKE-UP MAN WILL KNOW FOR SURE!
I HATE TO SEEM TEMPERAMENTAL BUT WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE HOLD-UP?!
BEATS ME! STUNT-MASTER WAS DUE HERE TEN MINUTES AGO!
ACTORS! GIVE 'EM A FEW BUCKS AND THEY THINK THE WORLD OWES 'EM A LIVING!
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW! JUST A BIT MORE PUTTY HERE...
...AND A BIT MORE THERE BESIDE THE MOUTH!
NOW LET ME LOOK AT THE PICTURE OF STUNT-MASTER!
ALMOST, BUT I STILL NEED SLIGHTLY HEAVIER EYEBROWS!
ONCE THAT IS DONE...


...I AM FINISHED!
A BEAUTIFUL JOB! THE COSMETICIANS UNION WOULD BE UNHAPPY IF THEY KNEW I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR LESS THAN SCALE!
I MUST CONFESS I LOOK MORE LIKE THE STUNT-MASTER THAN THE STUNT-MASTER HIMSELF!
MEMO
Tomorrow
HAVE TO TEMPORARILY DISMANTLE MY HYDRAULIC LEGS!
THEN I WILL BE READY TO PROCEED WITH MY LITTLE CHARADE!
I'LL PACK THEM UP AND TAKE THEM WITH ME, OF COURSE!
FOR I WILL NEED THEM BEFORE THE GAME IS ENDED!
THIS IS INSANE! DAREDEVIL, WILL YOU SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THAT CLOWN?
OKAY! YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR!
I CAN'T FIGURE IT! HE JUST ISN'T THE TYPE TO GET A SWELLED HEAD AND HOLD UP PRODUCTION... UNLESS MAYBE SOMETHING IS WRONG!
HIS COSTUME FITS ME PERFECTLY! THAT MEANS THE TIME HAS COME!
I'LL GRAB MY STILTS AND GO ONTO THE SET! THEN, WHEN THE CAMERAS START ROLLING, THEY WILL RECORD THE DEATH OF DAREDEVIL!


HEY! WE'D ABOUT DECIDED YOU WERE HOLDING OUT FOR MORE **MONEY...**
...OR THAT YOU'D ABSCONDED WITH A **STARLET!**
WHO, **ME?!** NOT A **CHANCE!**
JUST HAD TO FIX MY **MAKE-UP!** GOTTA LOOK GOOD ON **CAMERA,** YA KNOW!
MATTER OF FACT, I'M SO WORKED UP ABOUT MY **FIRST ROLE...**
...I'VE EVEN RIGGED UP A NEW **EXHAUST SYSTEM** FOR MY **HOG!**
THAT'S WHAT I'M CARRYING IN THESE ROLL-SHAPED **CASES!**
FUNNY, I DIDN'T **ASK** WHAT HE WAS CARRYING! AND HIS **HEARTBEAT**--EVEN HIS **VOICE** SOUNDS **DIFFERENT!**
AH, MUST JUST BE GETTING **JITTERY!** NOT EVERY DAY I MAKE A **FILM DEBUT!**
12


SORRY TO KEEP YA **WAITIN',** KIDS! BUT I WAS WORKIN' ON SOMETHIN' NEW FOR THE **BIKE!**
OKAY! BUT LET'S GET THOSE CAMERAS **ROLLING!**
YOU KNOW THE **SCENE** BY NOW, I HOPE...
SO JUST GET OVER TO YOUR MACHINE AND **REV HER UP!**
I'LL TELL DAREDEVIL WHAT **HE'S** SUPPOSED TO DO!
SURE, MAN! I READ YA!
AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE FOOTAGE OF A **LIFETIME...** SOON AS I ATTACH MY **STILTS** TO THESE WHEELS!
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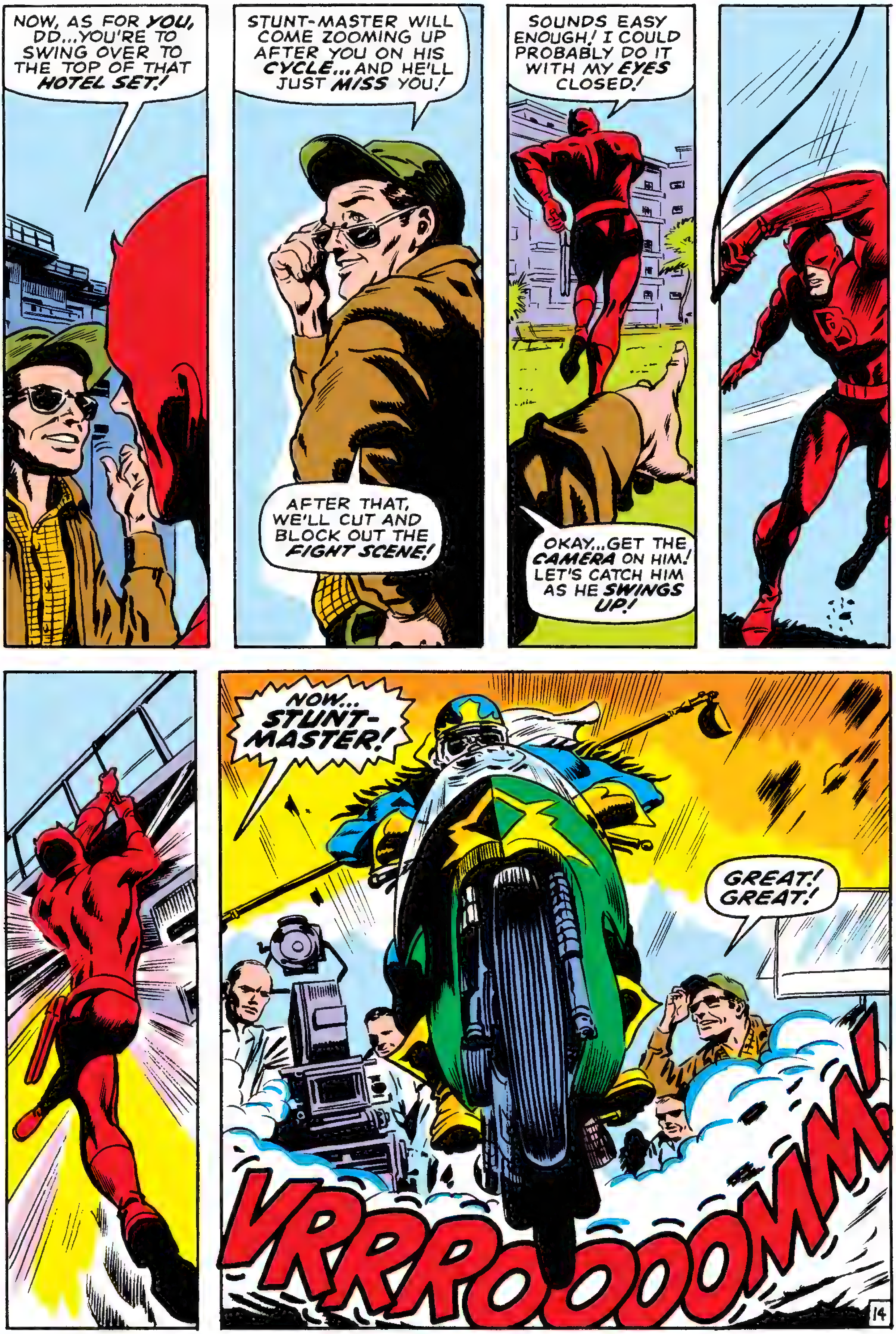
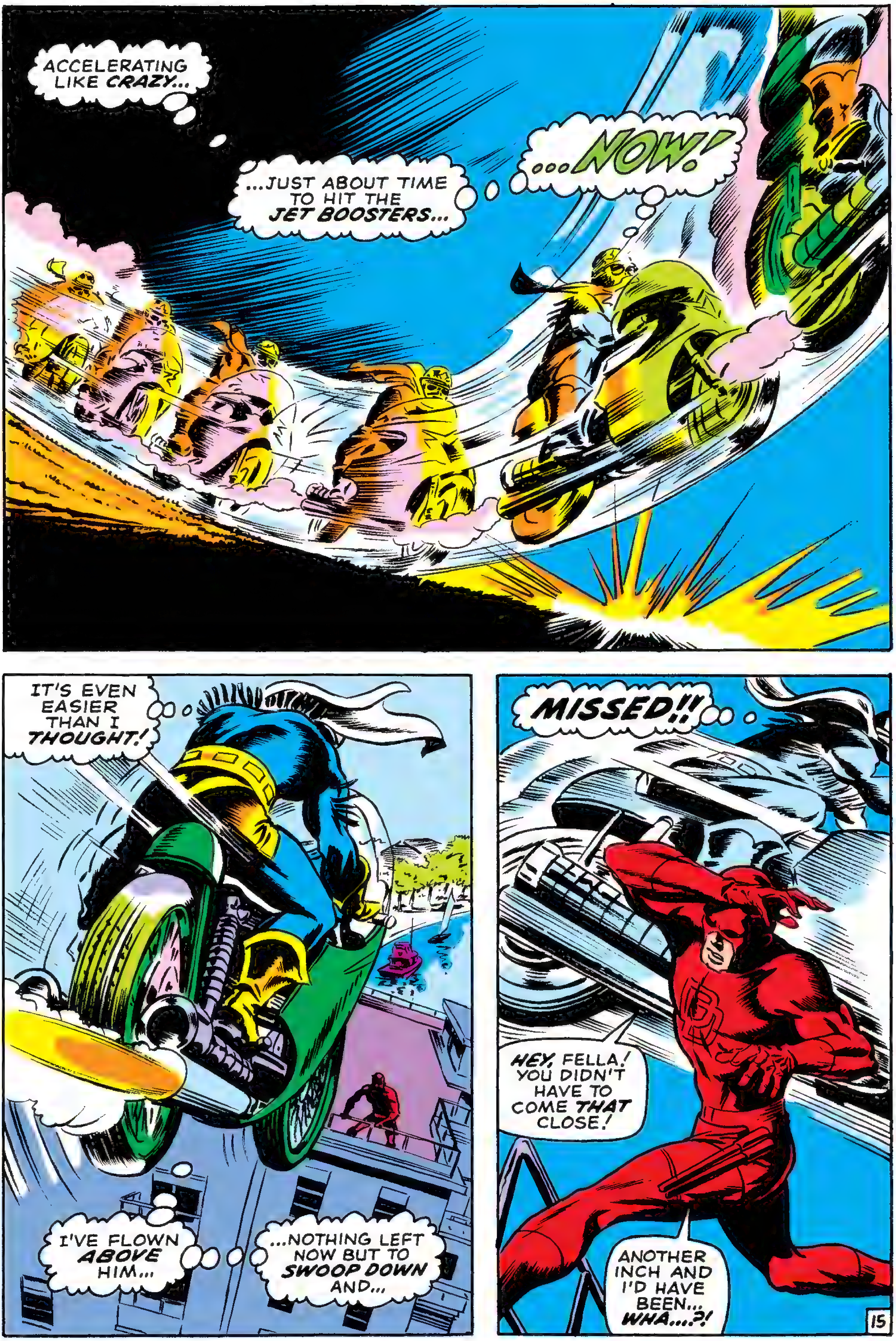
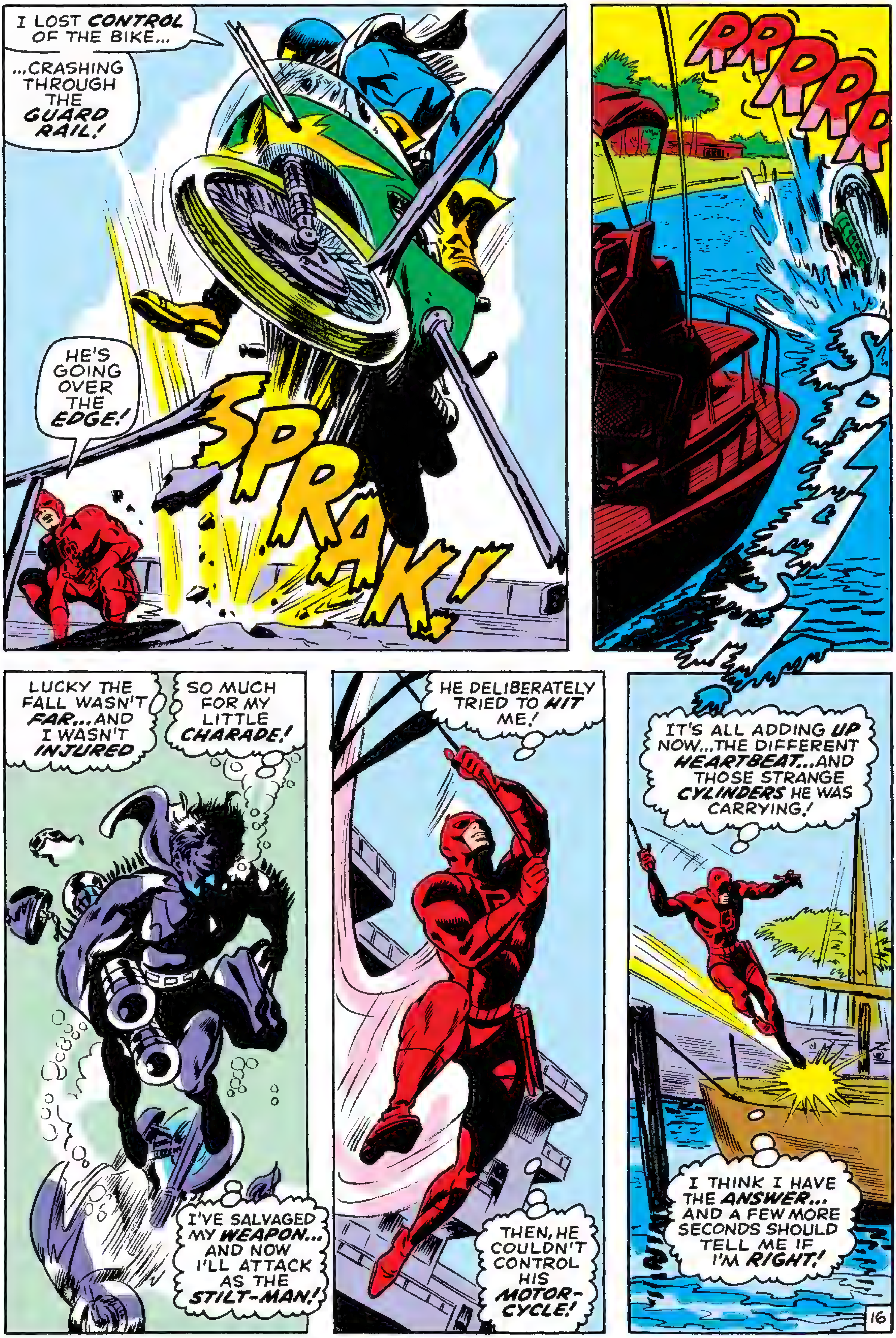
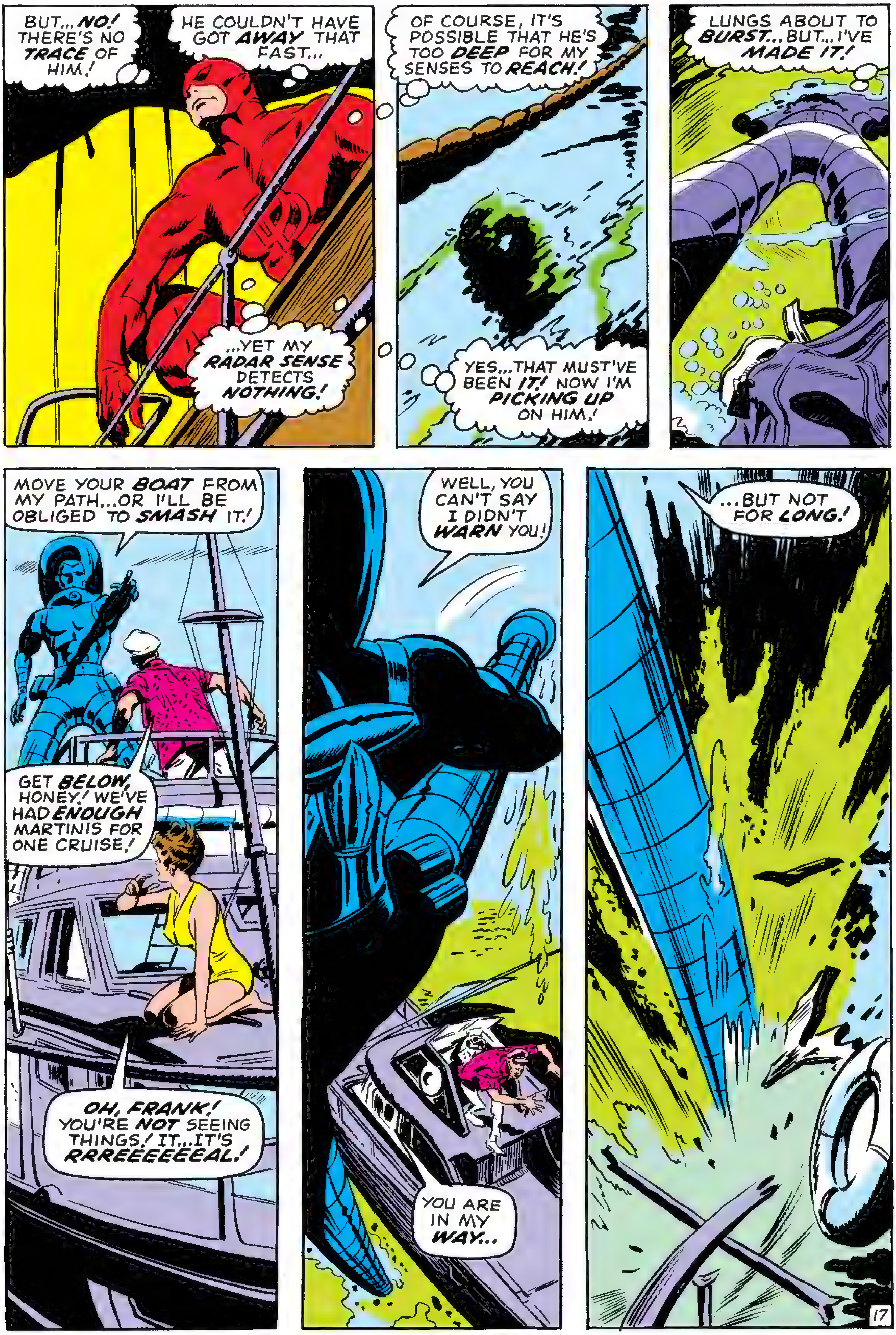
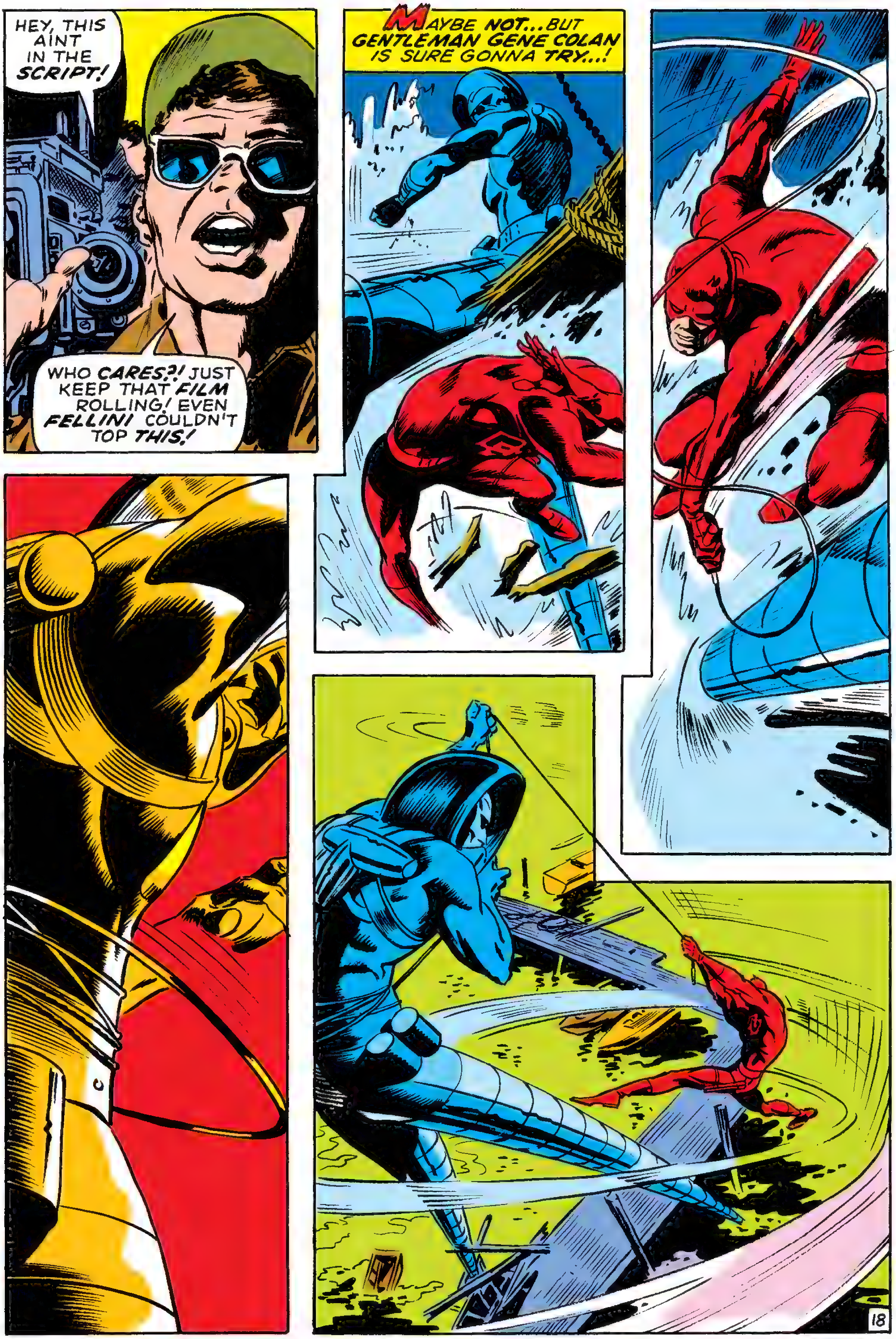
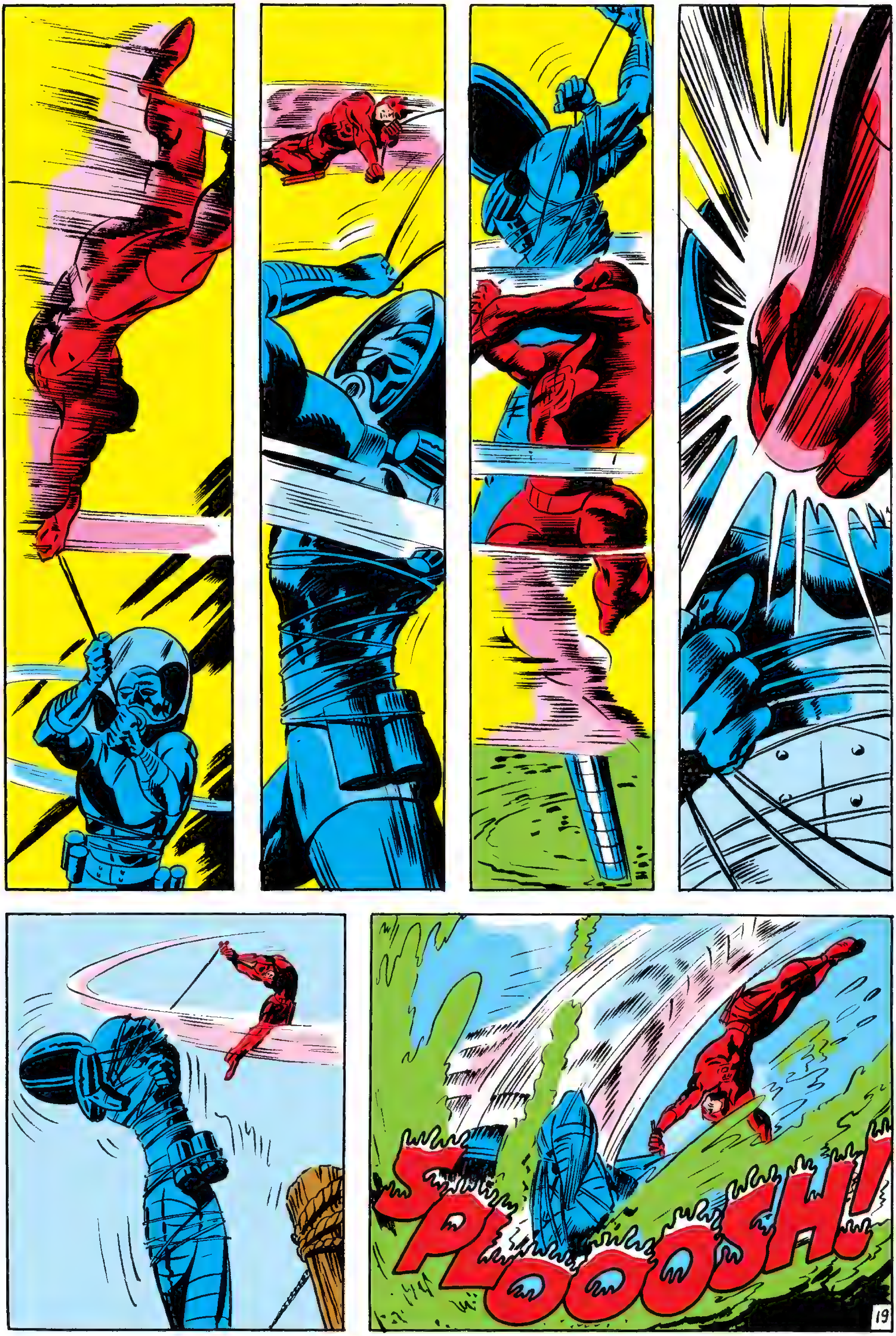

NOW, AS FOR YOU, DD...YOU'RE TO SWING OVER TO THE TOP OF THAT HOTEL SET!
STUNT-MASTER WILL COME ZOOMING UP AFTER YOU ON HIS CYCLE...AND HE'LL JUST MISS YOU!
AFTER THAT, WE'LL CUT AND BLOCK OUT THE FIGHT SCENE!
SOUNDS EASY ENOUGH! I COULD PROBABLY DO IT WITH MY EYES CLOSED!
OKAY...GET THE CAMERA ON HIM! LET'S CATCH HIM AS HE SWINGS UP!
NOW... STUNT-MASTER!
GREAT! GREAT!
VRRROOOOMM!

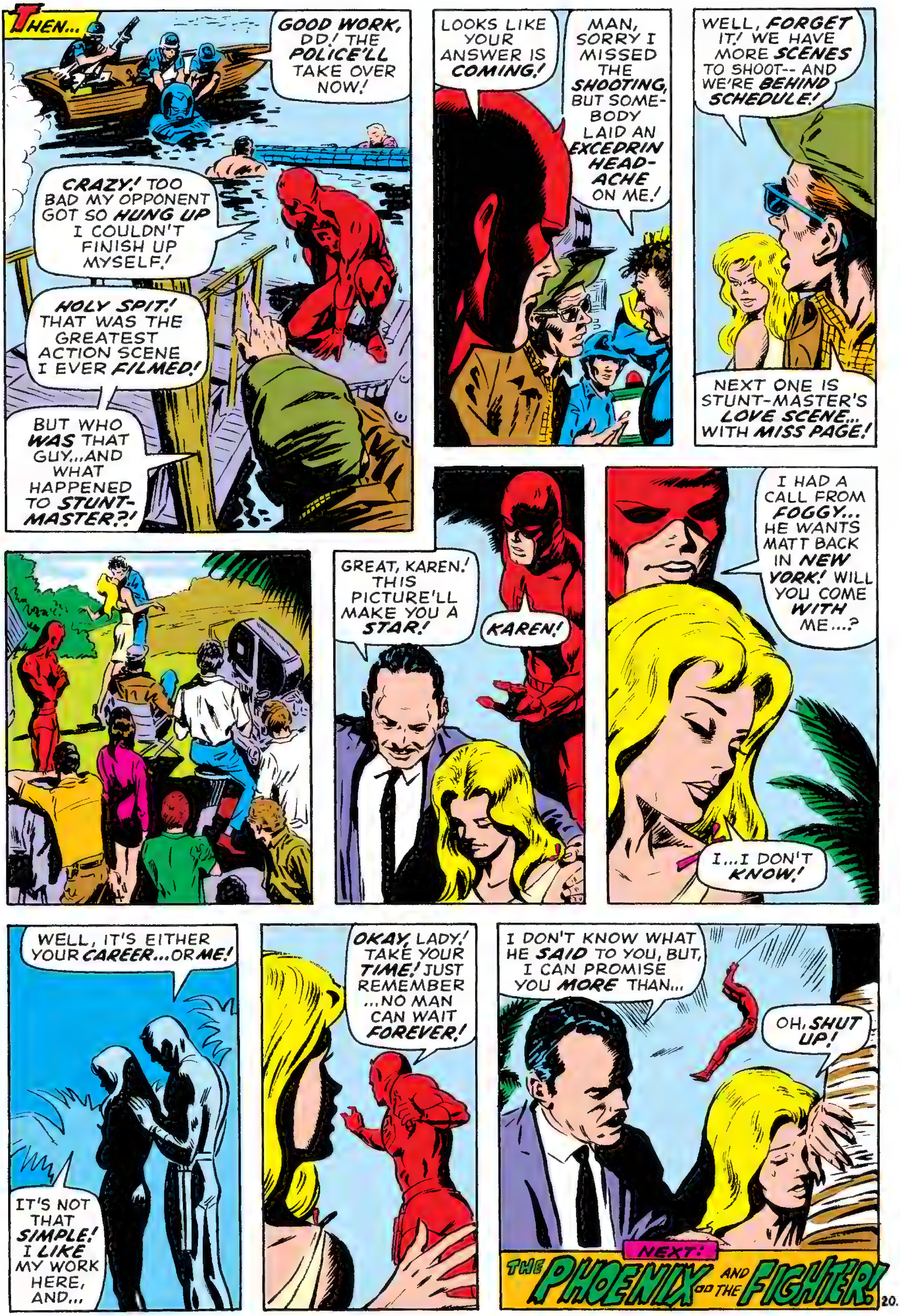

ACCELERATING LIKE *CRAZY*...
...JUST ABOUT TIME TO HIT THE *JET BOOSTERS*...
...*NOW!*
IT'S EVEN EASIER THAN I *THOUGHT!*
I'VE FLOWN *ABOVE* HIM...
...NOTHING LEFT NOW BUT TO *SWOOP DOWN* AND...
MISSED!!
HEY, FELLA! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME *THAT* CLOSE!
ANOTHER INCH AND I'D HAVE BEEN... *WHA...?!*


I LOST CONTROL OF THE BIKE...
...CRASHING THROUGH THE GUARD RAIL!
HE'S GOING OVER THE EDGE!
SPRAK!
RRRRRR
LUCKY THE FALL WASN'T FAR...AND I WASN'T INJURED
SO MUCH FOR MY LITTLE CHARADE!
I'VE SALVAGED MY WEAPON...AND NOW I'LL ATTACK AS THE STILT-MAN!
HE DELIBERATELY TRIED TO HIT ME!
THEN, HE COULDN'T CONTROL HIS MOTOR-CYCLE!
IT'S ALL ADDING UP NOW...THE DIFFERENT HEARTBEAT...AND THOSE STRANGE CYLINDERS HE WAS CARRYING!
I THINK I HAVE THE ANSWER...AND A FEW MORE SECONDS SHOULD TELL ME IF I'M RIGHT!


BUT... NO! THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM!
HE COULDN'T HAVE GOT AWAY THAT FAST...
...YET MY RADAR SENSE DETECTS NOTHING!
OF COURSE, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE'S TOO DEEP FOR MY SENSES TO REACH!
YES... THAT MUST'VE BEEN IT! NOW I'M PICKING UP ON HIM!
LUNGS ABOUT TO BURST... BUT... I'VE MADE IT!
MOVE YOUR BOAT FROM MY PATH... OR I'LL BE OBLIGED TO SMASH IT!
GET BELOW, HONEY! WE'VE HAD ENOUGH MARTINIS FOR ONE CRUISE!
OH, FRANK! YOU'RE NOT SEEING THINGS! IT... IT'S RRREEEEEEAL!
WELL, YOU CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!
YOU ARE IN MY WAY...
...BUT NOT FOR LONG!

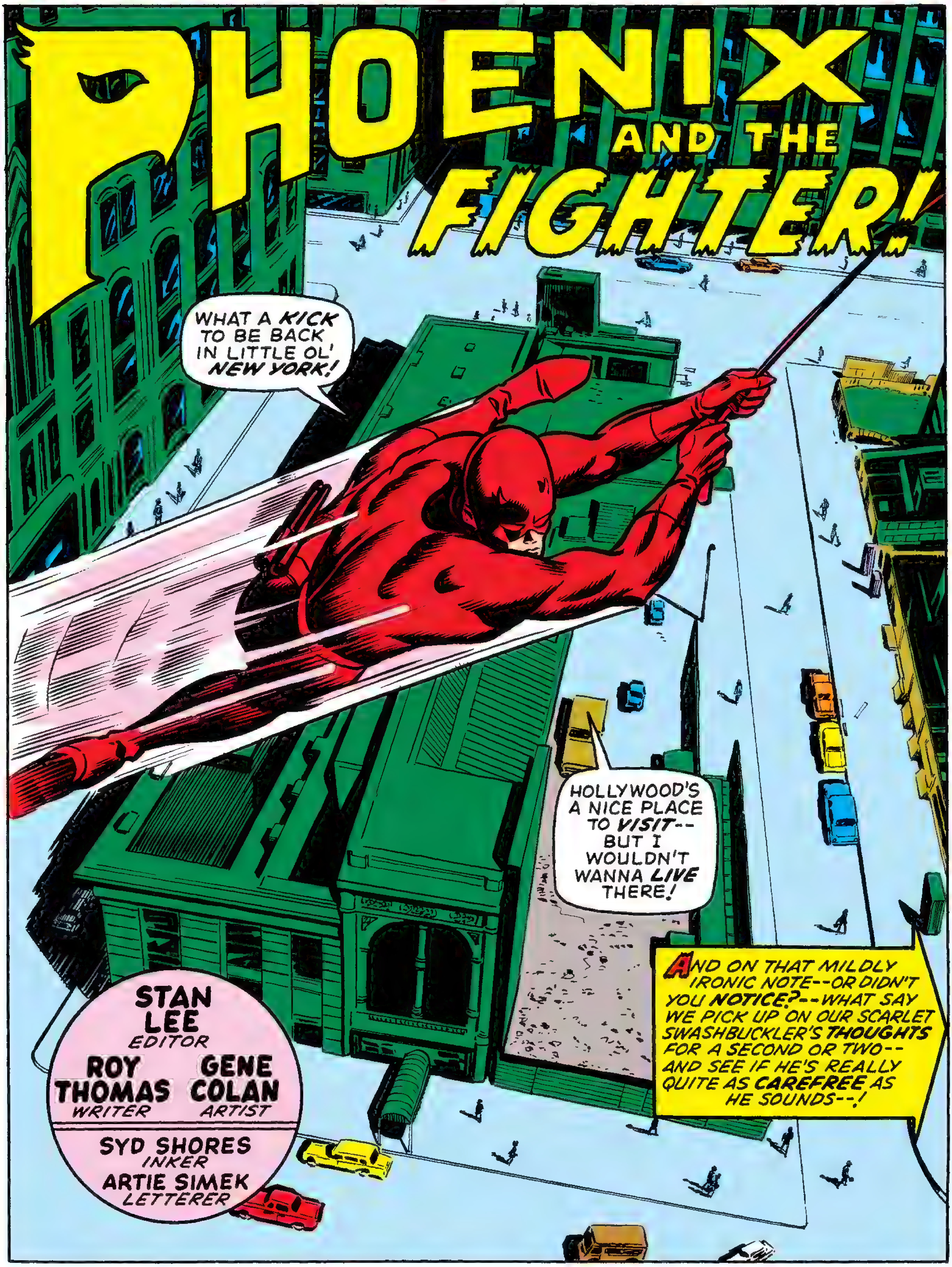

HEY, THIS AIN'T IN THE *SCRIPT!*
WHO *CARES?!* JUST KEEP THAT *FILM* ROLLING! EVEN *FELLINI* COULDN'T TOP *THIS!*
MAYBE *NOT*...BUT *GENTLEMAN GENE COLAN* IS SURE GONNA *TRY*...!

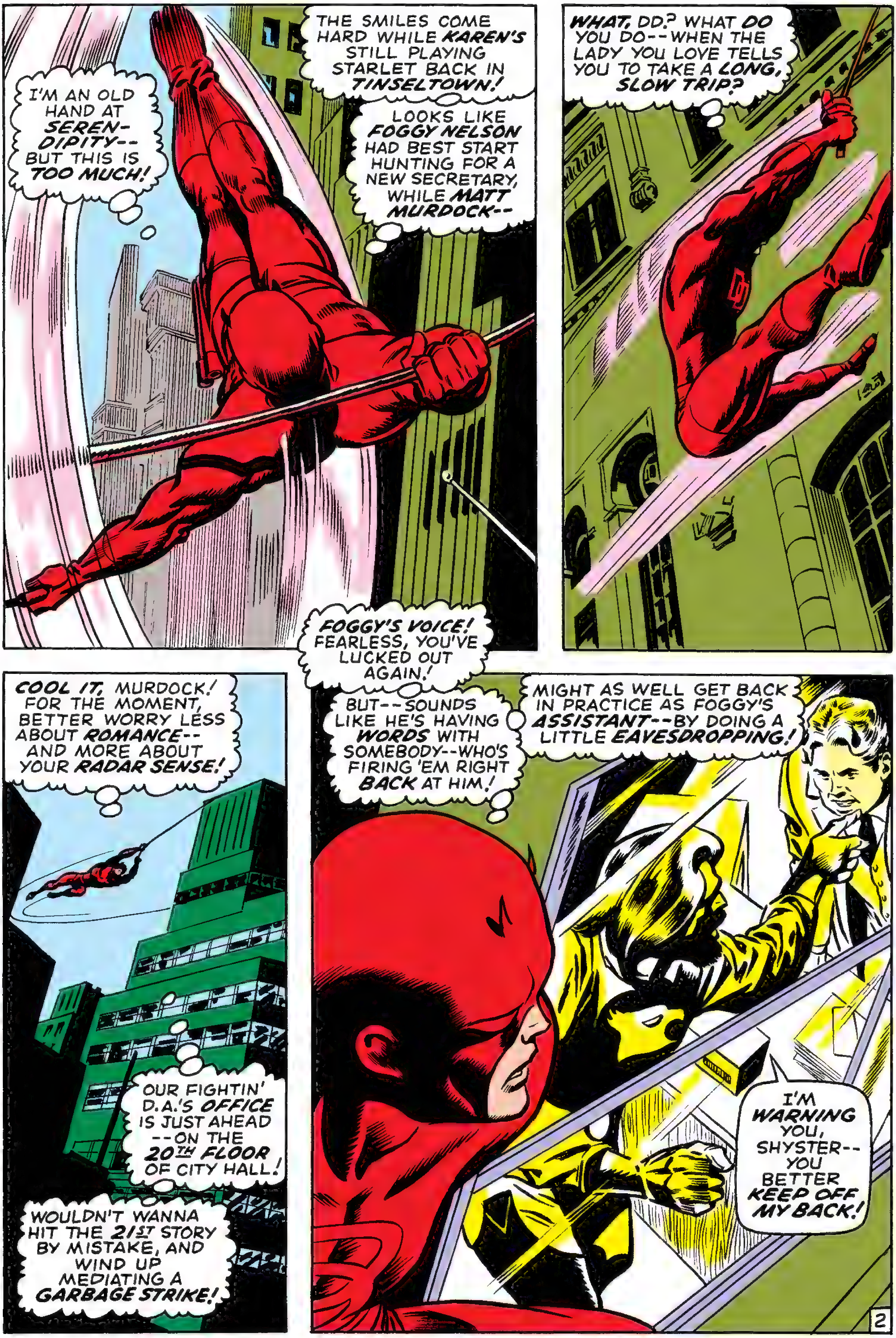

SPLOOOSH!

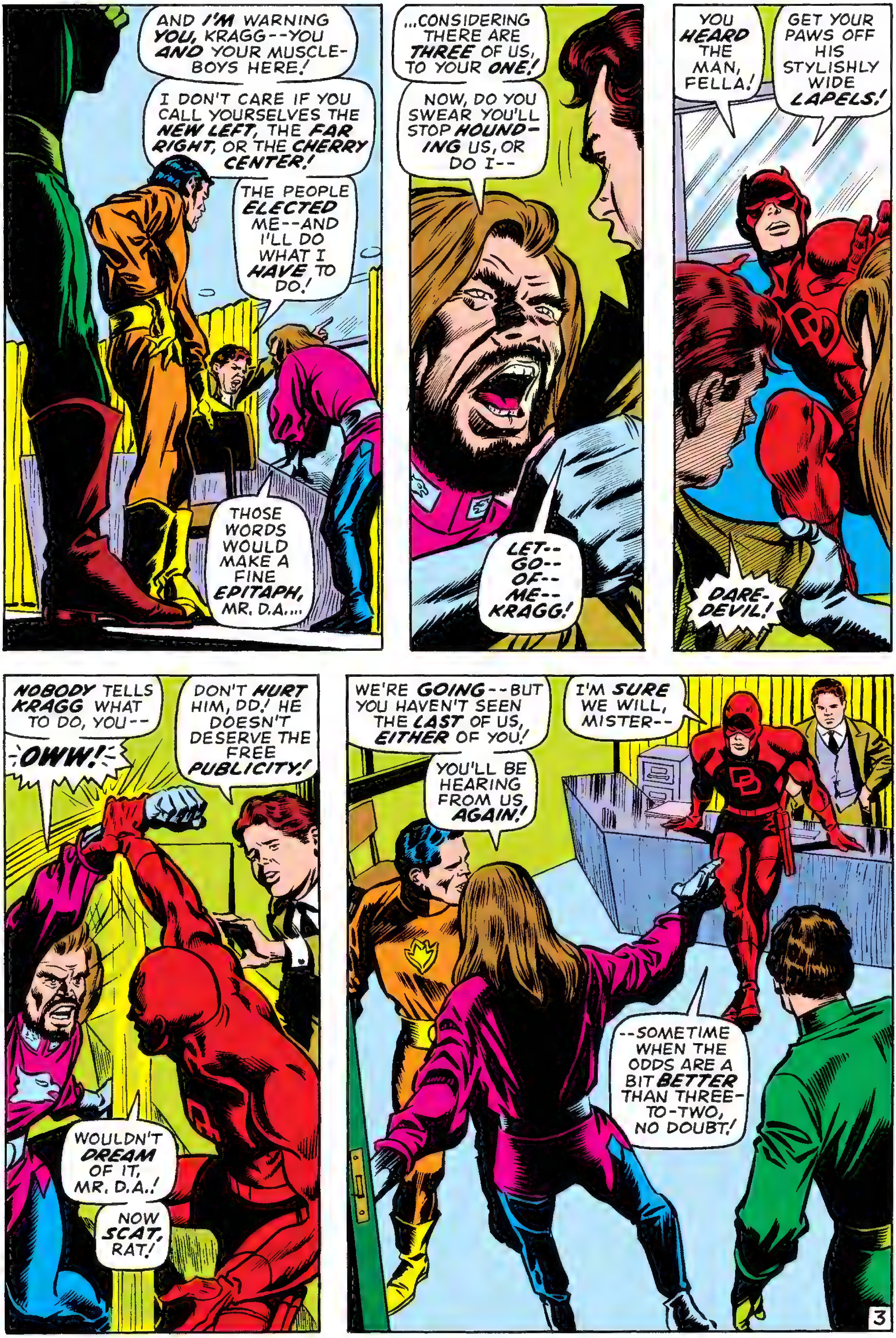

THEN...
GOOD WORK, DD! THE POLICE'LL TAKE OVER NOW!
CRAZY! TOO BAD MY OPPONENT GOT SO HUNG UP I COULDN'T FINISH UP MYSELF!
HOLY SPIT! THAT WAS THE GREATEST ACTION SCENE I EVER FILMED!
BUT WHO WAS THAT GUY...AND WHAT HAPPENED TO STUNT-MASTER?!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR ANSWER IS COMING!
MAN, SORRY I MISSED THE SHOOTING, BUT SOMEBODY LAID AN EXCEDRIN HEADACHE ON ME!
WELL, FORGET IT! WE HAVE MORE SCENES TO SHOOT-- AND WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE!
NEXT ONE IS STUNT-MASTER'S LOVE SCENE... WITH MISS PAGE!
GREAT, KAREN! THIS PICTURE'LL MAKE YOU A STAR!
KAREN!
I HAD A CALL FROM FOGGY... HE WANTS MATT BACK IN NEW YORK! WILL YOU COME WITH ME...?
I...I DON'T KNOW!
WELL, IT'S EITHER YOUR CAREER...OR ME!
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE! I LIKE MY WORK HERE, AND...
OKAY, LADY! TAKE YOUR TIME! JUST REMEMBER ...NO MAN CAN WAIT FOREVER!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO YOU, BUT, I CAN PROMISE YOU MORE THAN...
OH, SHUT UP!
NEXT:
THE PHOENIX AND THE FIGHTER!

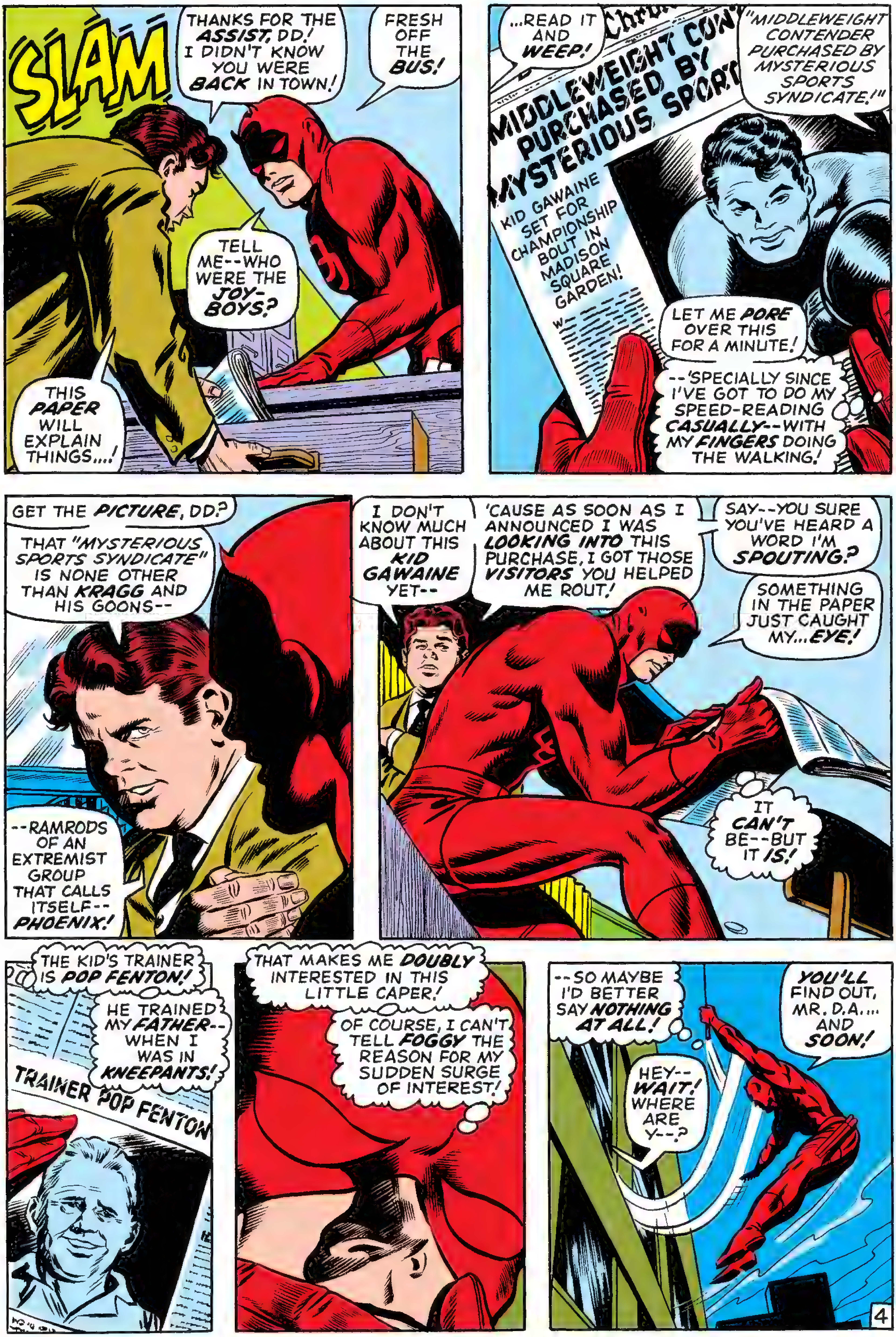
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
68
SEPT
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
DROP THOSE *GLOVES*, MASKED MAN!
YOU'RE NOT STEPPING INTO THE RING--UNTIL YOU'VE SETTLED WITH *KRAGG!*
BUT I'VE *GOT* TO MAKE THIS FIGHT--I'VE *GOT* TO--!
--OR AN INNOCENT MAN GOES *BLIND!!*
THE PHOENIX.. THE FIGHTER.. AND THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

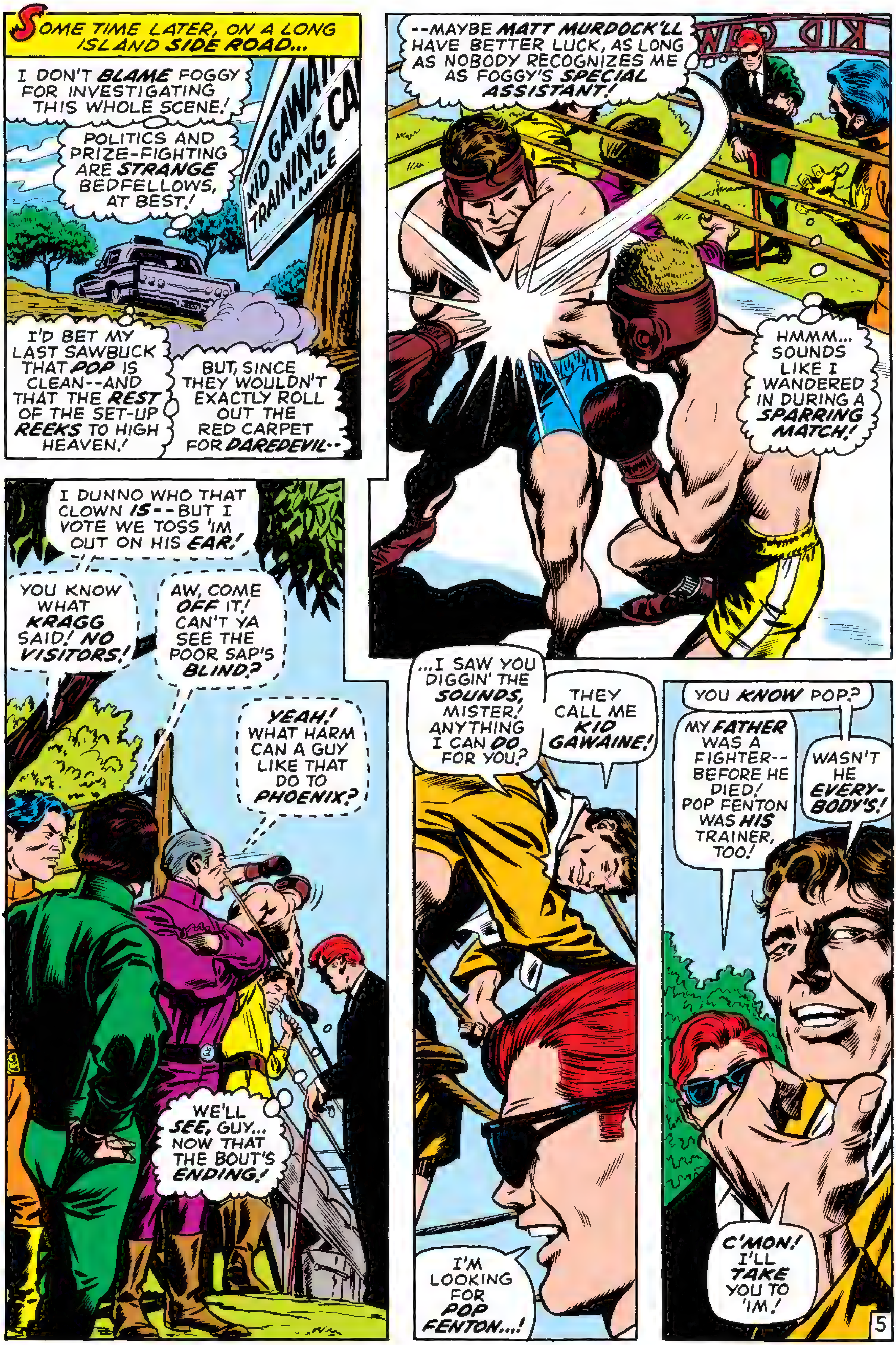
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

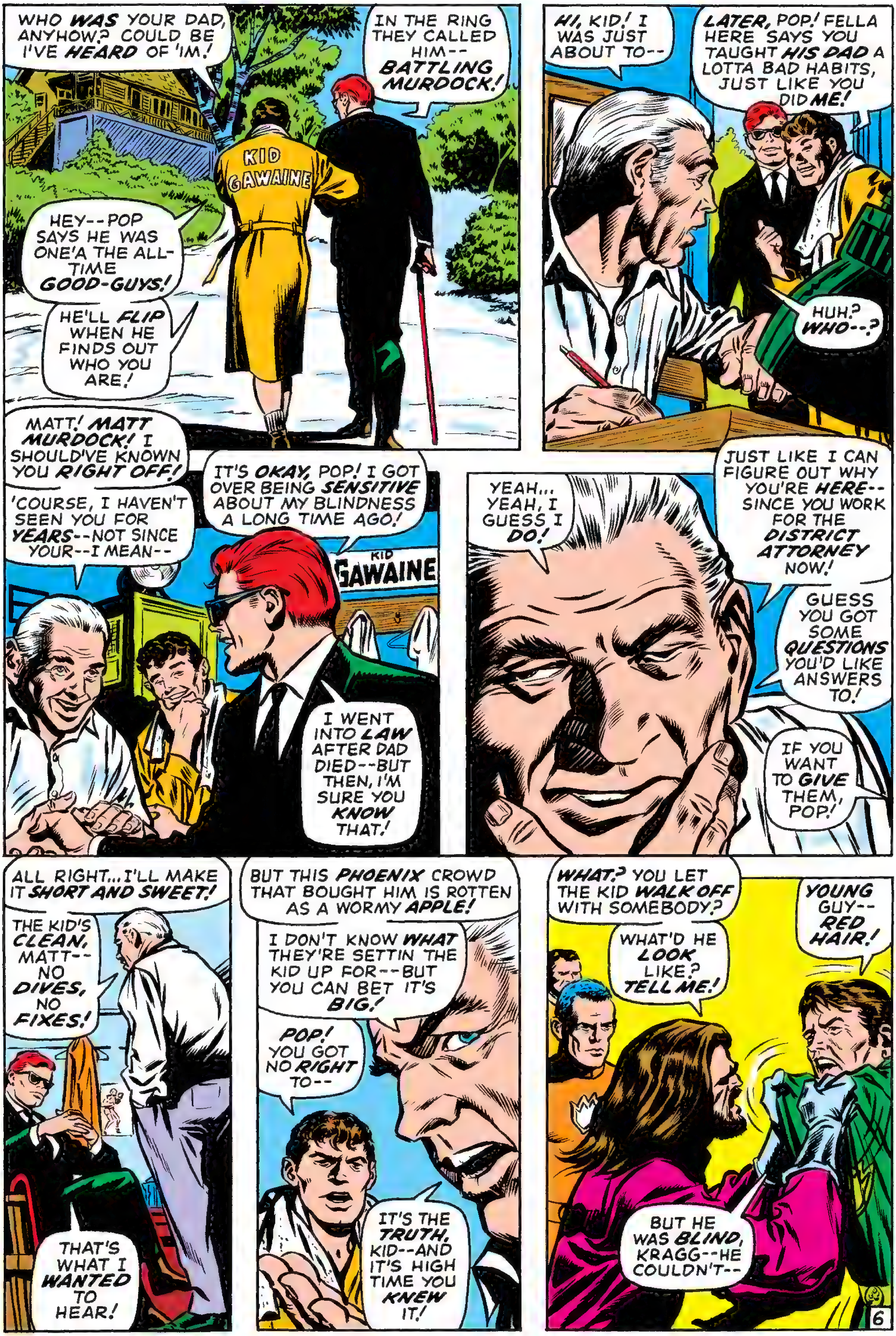

PHOENIX AND THE FIGHTER!
WHAT A KICK TO BE BACK IN LITTLE OL' NEW YORK!
HOLLYWOOD'S A NICE PLACE TO VISIT-- BUT I WOULDN'T WANNA LIVE THERE!
AND ON THAT MILDLY IRONIC NOTE--OR DIDN'T YOU NOTICE?--WHAT SAY WE PICK UP ON OUR SCARLET SWASHBUCKLER'S THOUGHTS FOR A SECOND OR TWO-- AND SEE IF HE'S REALLY QUITE AS CAREFREE AS HE SOUNDS--!
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES INKER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER

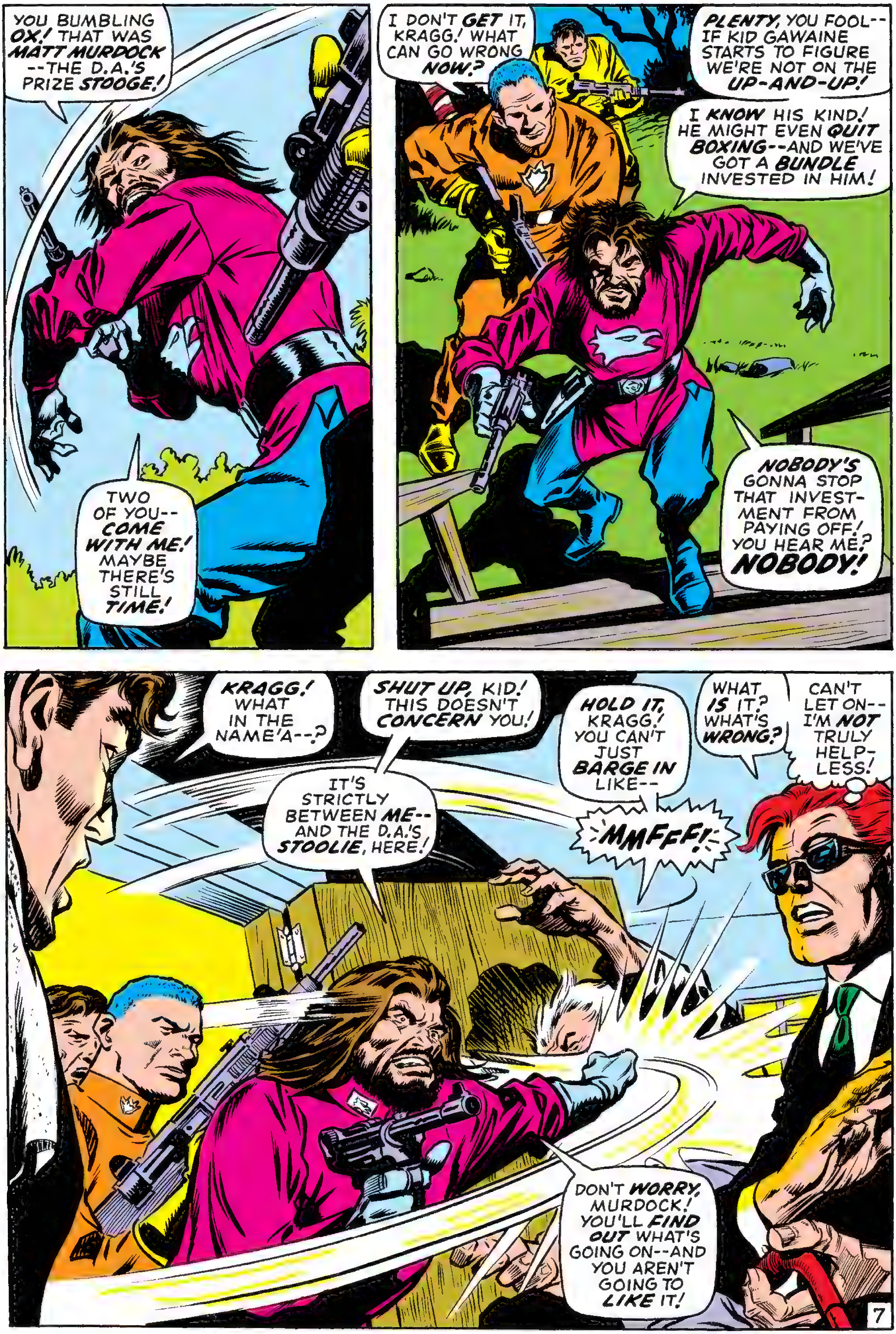

I'M AN OLD HAND AT SEREN-DIPITY-- BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!
THE SMILES COME HARD WHILE KAREN'S STILL PLAYING STARLET BACK IN TINSELTOWN!
LOOKS LIKE FOGGY NELSON HAD BEST START HUNTING FOR A NEW SECRETARY, WHILE MATT MURDOCK--
WHAT, DD? WHAT DO YOU DO--WHEN THE LADY YOU LOVE TELLS YOU TO TAKE A LONG, SLOW TRIP?
COOL IT, MURDOCK! FOR THE MOMENT, BETTER WORRY LESS ABOUT ROMANCE-- AND MORE ABOUT YOUR RADAR SENSE!
OUR FIGHTIN' D.A.'S OFFICE IS JUST AHEAD --ON THE 20TH FLOOR OF CITY HALL!
WOULDN'T WANNA HIT THE 21ST STORY BY MISTAKE, AND WIND UP MEDIATING A GARBAGE STRIKE!
FOGGY'S VOICE! FEARLESS, YOU'VE LUCKED OUT AGAIN!
BUT--SOUNDS LIKE HE'S HAVING WORDS WITH SOMEBODY--WHO'S FIRING 'EM RIGHT BACK AT HIM!
MIGHT AS WELL GET BACK IN PRACTICE AS FOGGY'S ASSISTANT--BY DOING A LITTLE EAVESDROPPING!
I'M WARNING YOU, SHYSTER-- YOU BETTER KEEP OFF MY BACK!

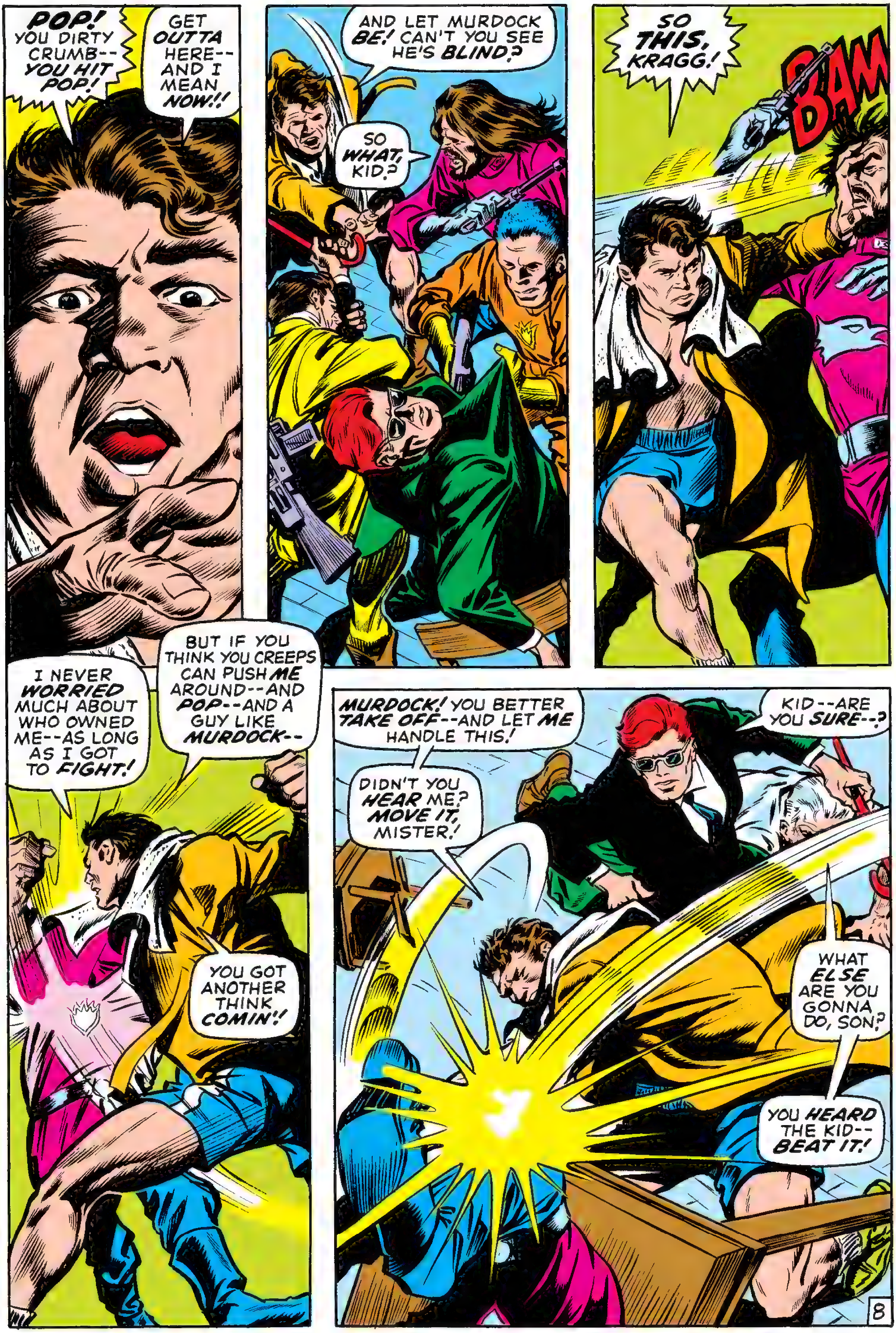

AND *I'M* WARNING *YOU,* KRAGG--YOU *AND* YOUR MUSCLE-BOYS HERE!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU CALL YOURSELVES THE *NEW LEFT,* THE *FAR RIGHT,* OR THE *CHERRY CENTER!*
THE PEOPLE *ELECTED* ME--AND I'LL DO WHAT I *HAVE* TO DO!
THOSE WORDS WOULD MAKE A FINE *EPITAPH,* MR. D.A....
...CONSIDERING THERE ARE *THREE* OF US, TO YOUR *ONE!*
NOW, DO YOU SWEAR YOU'LL STOP *HOUNDING* US, OR DO I--
LET--GO--OF--ME--KRAGG!
YOU *HEARD* THE MAN, FELLA!
GET YOUR PAWS OFF HIS STYLISHLY WIDE *LAPELS!*
DAREDEVIL!
NOBODY TELLS *KRAGG* WHAT TO DO, YOU--
OWW!
DON'T *HURT* HIM, DD! HE DOESN'T DESERVE THE FREE *PUBLICITY!*
WOULDN'T *DREAM* OF IT, MR. D.A.!
NOW *SCAT,* RAT!
WE'RE *GOING*--BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE *LAST* OF US, *EITHER* OF YOU!
YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM US *AGAIN!*
I'M *SURE* WE WILL, MISTER--
--SOMETIME WHEN THE ODDS ARE A BIT *BETTER* THAN THREE-TO-TWO, NO DOUBT!

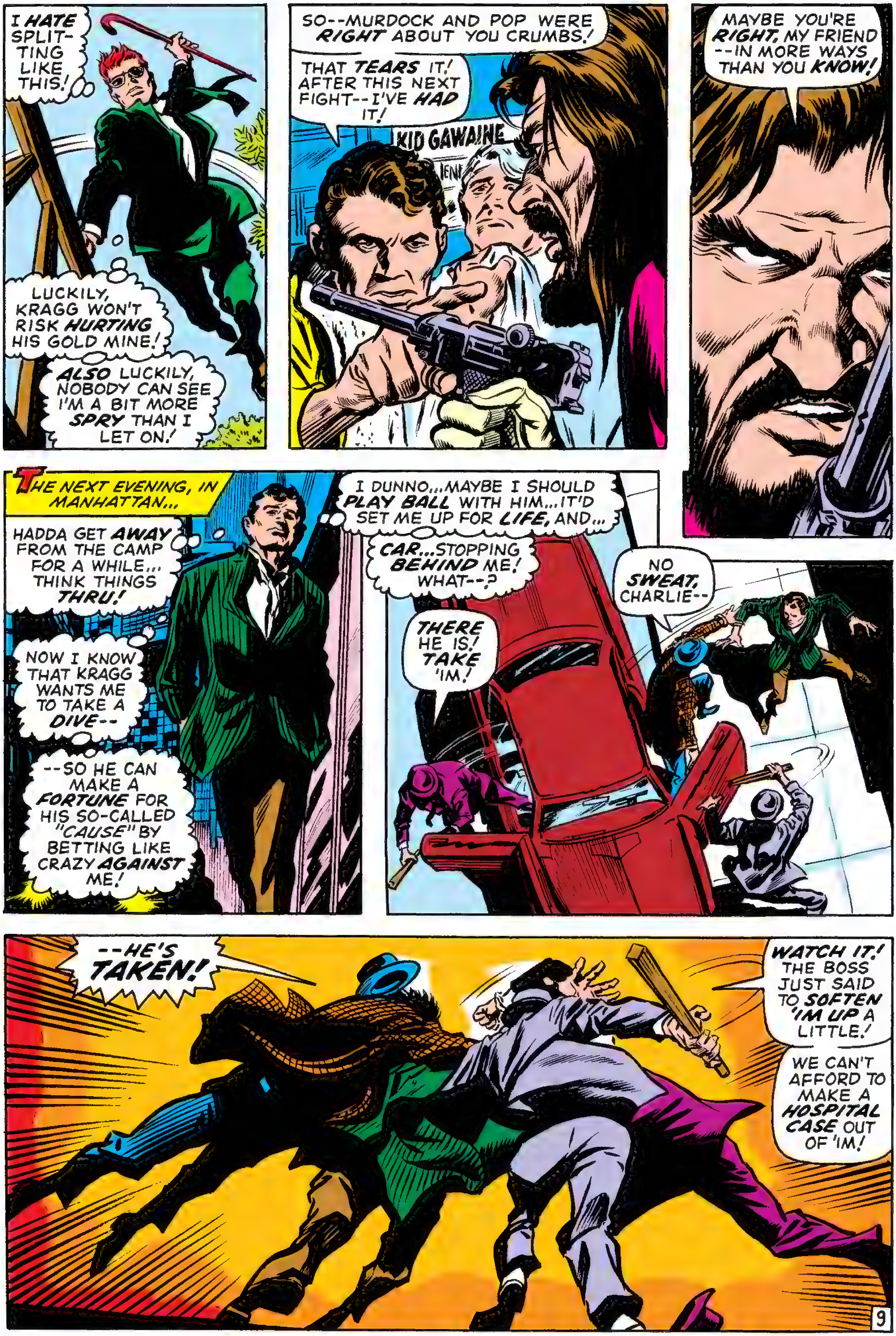

SLAM
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, DD! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BACK IN TOWN!
FRESH OFF THE BUS!
TELL ME--WHO WERE THE JOY-BOYS?
THIS PAPER WILL EXPLAIN THINGS....!
...READ IT AND WEEP!
"MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENDER PURCHASED BY MYSTERIOUS SPORTS SYNDICATE!"
MIDDLEWEIGHT CON PURCHASED BY MYSTERIOUS SPORT
KID GAWAINE SET FOR CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT IN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN!
LET ME PORE OVER THIS FOR A MINUTE!
--'SPECIALLY SINCE I'VE GOT TO DO MY SPEED-READING CASUALLY--WITH MY FINGERS DOING THE WALKING!
GET THE PICTURE, DD?
THAT "MYSTERIOUS SPORTS SYNDICATE" IS NONE OTHER THAN KRAGG AND HIS GOONS--
--RAMRODS OF AN EXTREMIST GROUP THAT CALLS ITSELF--PHOENIX!
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS KID GAWAINE YET--
'CAUSE AS SOON AS I ANNOUNCED I WAS LOOKING INTO THIS PURCHASE, I GOT THOSE VISITORS YOU HELPED ME ROUT!
SAY--YOU SURE YOU'VE HEARD A WORD I'M SPOUTING?
SOMETHING IN THE PAPER JUST CAUGHT MY...EYE!
IT CAN'T BE--BUT IT IS!
THE KID'S TRAINER IS POP FENTON!
HE TRAINED MY FATHER--WHEN I WAS IN KNEEPANTS!
TRAINER POP FENTON
THAT MAKES ME DOUBLY INTERESTED IN THIS LITTLE CAPER!
OF COURSE, I CAN'T TELL FOGGY THE REASON FOR MY SUDDEN SURGE OF INTEREST!
--SO MAYBE I'D BETTER SAY NOTHING AT ALL!
HEY--WAIT! WHERE ARE Y--?
YOU'LL FIND OUT, MR. D.A.... AND SOON!

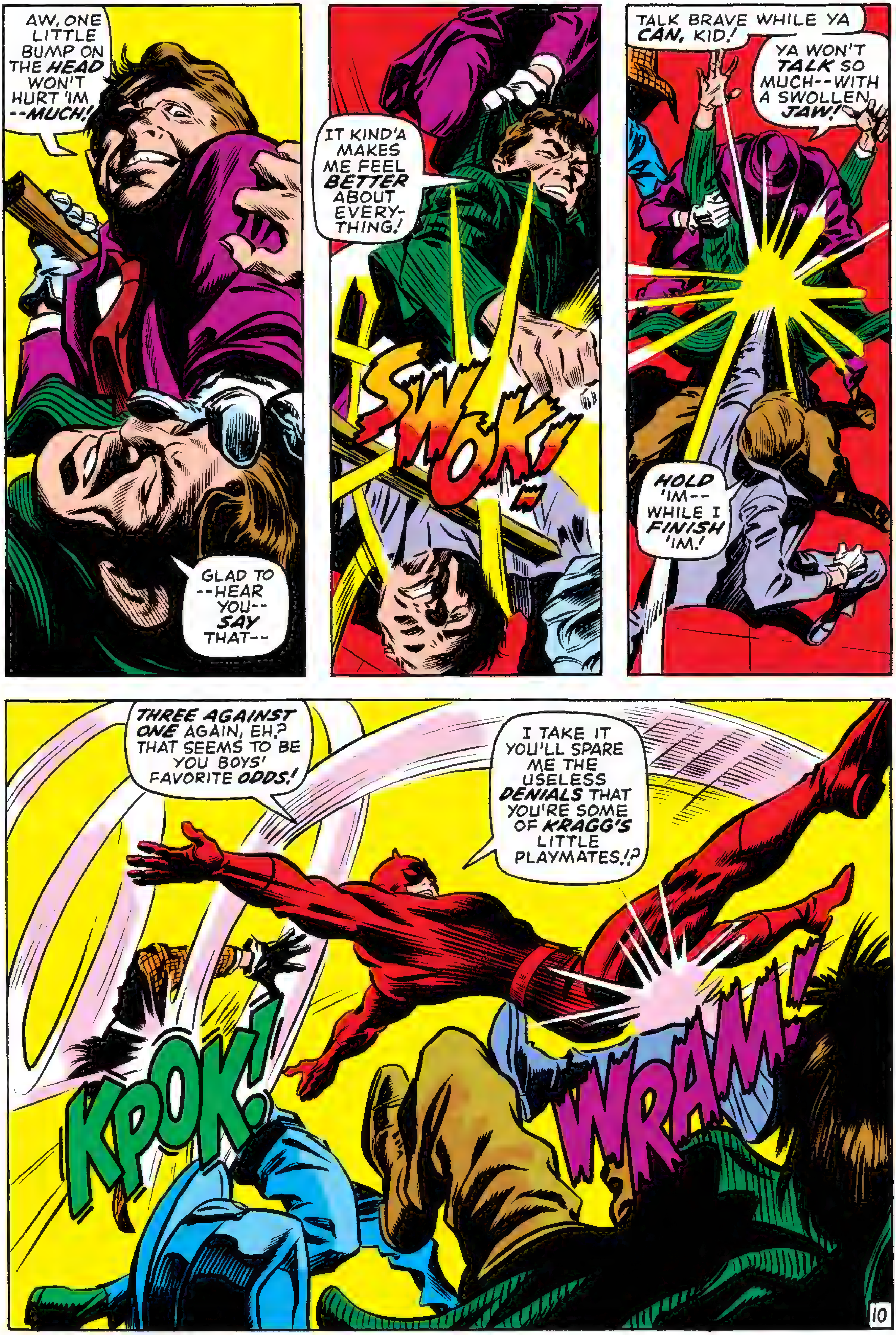

SOME TIME LATER, ON A LONG ISLAND SIDE ROAD...
I DON'T BLAME FOGGY FOR INVESTIGATING THIS WHOLE SCENE!
POLITICS AND PRIZE-FIGHTING ARE STRANGE BEDFELLOWS, AT BEST!
KID GAWAII TRAINING CA 1 MILE
I'D BET MY LAST SAWBUCK THAT POP IS CLEAN--AND THAT THE REST OF THE SET-UP REEKS TO HIGH HEAVEN!
BUT, SINCE THEY WOULDN'T EXACTLY ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR DAREDEVIL--
--MAYBE MATT MURDOCK'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK, AS LONG AS NOBODY RECOGNIZES ME AS FOGGY'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT!
KID GAW
HMMM... SOUNDS LIKE I WANDERED IN DURING A SPARRING MATCH!
I DUNNO WHO THAT CLOWN IS--BUT I VOTE WE TOSS 'IM OUT ON HIS EAR!
YOU KNOW WHAT KRAGG SAID! NO VISITORS!
AW, COME OFF IT! CAN'T YA SEE THE POOR SAP'S BLIND?
YEAH! WHAT HARM CAN A GUY LIKE THAT DO TO PHOENIX?
WE'LL SEE, GUY... NOW THAT THE BOUT'S ENDING!
...I SAW YOU DIGGIN' THE SOUNDS, MISTER! ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
THEY CALL ME KID GAWAINE!
I'M LOOKING FOR POP FENTON...!
YOU KNOW POP?
MY FATHER WAS A FIGHTER--BEFORE HE DIED! POP FENTON WAS HIS TRAINER, TOO!
WASN'T HE EVERY-BODY'S!
C'MON! I'LL TAKE YOU TO 'IM!

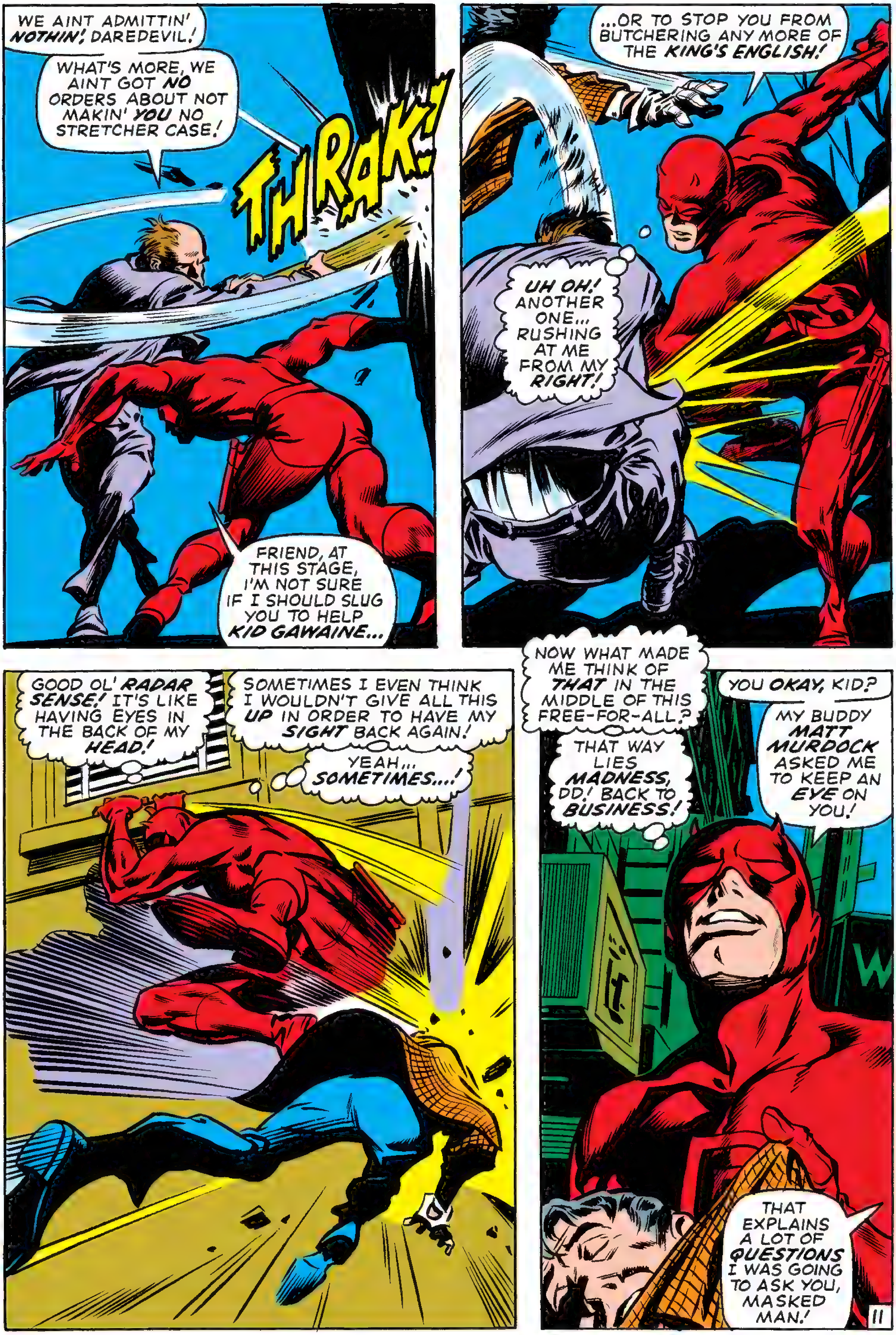

WHO WAS YOUR DAD, ANYHOW? COULD BE I'VE HEARD OF 'IM!
IN THE RING THEY CALLED HIM-- BATTLING MURDOCK!
KID GAWAINE
HEY--POP SAYS HE WAS ONE'A THE ALL-TIME GOOD-GUYS!
HE'LL FLIP WHEN HE FINDS OUT WHO YOU ARE!
HI, KID! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO--
LATER, POP! FELLA HERE SAYS YOU TAUGHT HIS DAD A LOTTA BAD HABITS, JUST LIKE YOU DID ME!
HUH? WHO--?
MATT! MATT MURDOCK! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU RIGHT OFF!
'COURSE, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR YEARS--NOT SINCE YOUR--I MEAN--
IT'S OKAY, POP! I GOT OVER BEING SENSITIVE ABOUT MY BLINDNESS A LONG TIME AGO!
KID GAWAINE
I WENT INTO LAW AFTER DAD DIED--BUT THEN, I'M SURE YOU KNOW THAT!
YEAH... YEAH, I GUESS I DO!
JUST LIKE I CAN FIGURE OUT WHY YOU'RE HERE--SINCE YOU WORK FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY NOW!
GUESS YOU GOT SOME QUESTIONS YOU'D LIKE ANSWERS TO!
IF YOU WANT TO GIVE THEM, POP!
ALL RIGHT...I'LL MAKE IT SHORT AND SWEET!
THE KID'S CLEAN, MATT--NO DIVES, NO FIXES!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!
BUT THIS PHOENIX CROWD THAT BOUGHT HIM IS ROTTEN AS A WORMY APPLE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SETTIN THE KID UP FOR--BUT YOU CAN BET IT'S BIG!
POP! YOU GOT NO RIGHT TO--
IT'S THE TRUTH, KID--AND IT'S HIGH TIME YOU KNEW IT!
WHAT? YOU LET THE KID WALK OFF WITH SOMEBODY?
YOUNG GUY--RED HAIR!
WHAT'D HE LOOK LIKE? TELL ME!
BUT HE WAS BLIND, KRAGG--HE COULDN'T--

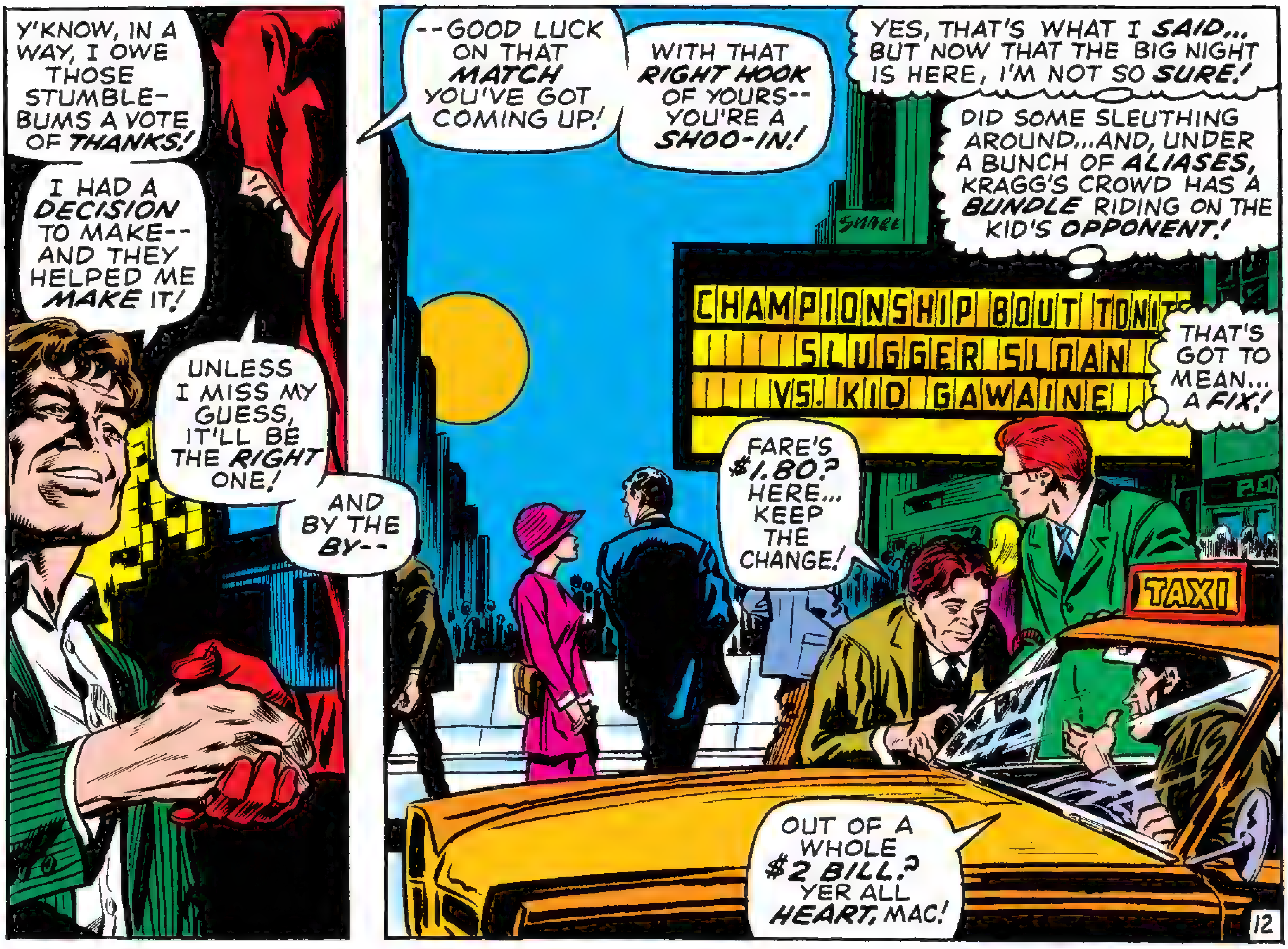

YOU BUMBLING OX! THAT WAS MATT MURDOCK --THE D.A.'S PRIZE STOOGE!
TWO OF YOU--COME WITH ME! MAYBE THERE'S STILL TIME!
I DON'T GET IT, KRAGG! WHAT CAN GO WRONG NOW?
PLENTY, YOU FOOL--IF KID GAWAINE STARTS TO FIGURE WE'RE NOT ON THE UP-AND-UP!
I KNOW HIS KIND! HE MIGHT EVEN QUIT BOXING--AND WE'VE GOT A BUNDLE INVESTED IN HIM!
NOBODY'S GONNA STOP THAT INVESTMENT FROM PAYING OFF! YOU HEAR ME? NOBODY!
KRAGG! WHAT IN THE NAME'A--?
SHUT UP, KID! THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!
IT'S STRICTLY BETWEEN ME--AND THE D.A.'S STOOLIE, HERE!
HOLD IT, KRAGG! YOU CAN'T JUST BARGE IN LIKE--
MMFFF!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
CAN'T LET ON--I'M NOT TRULY HELPLESS!
DON'T WORRY, MURDOCK! YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON--AND YOU AREN'T GOING TO LIKE IT!

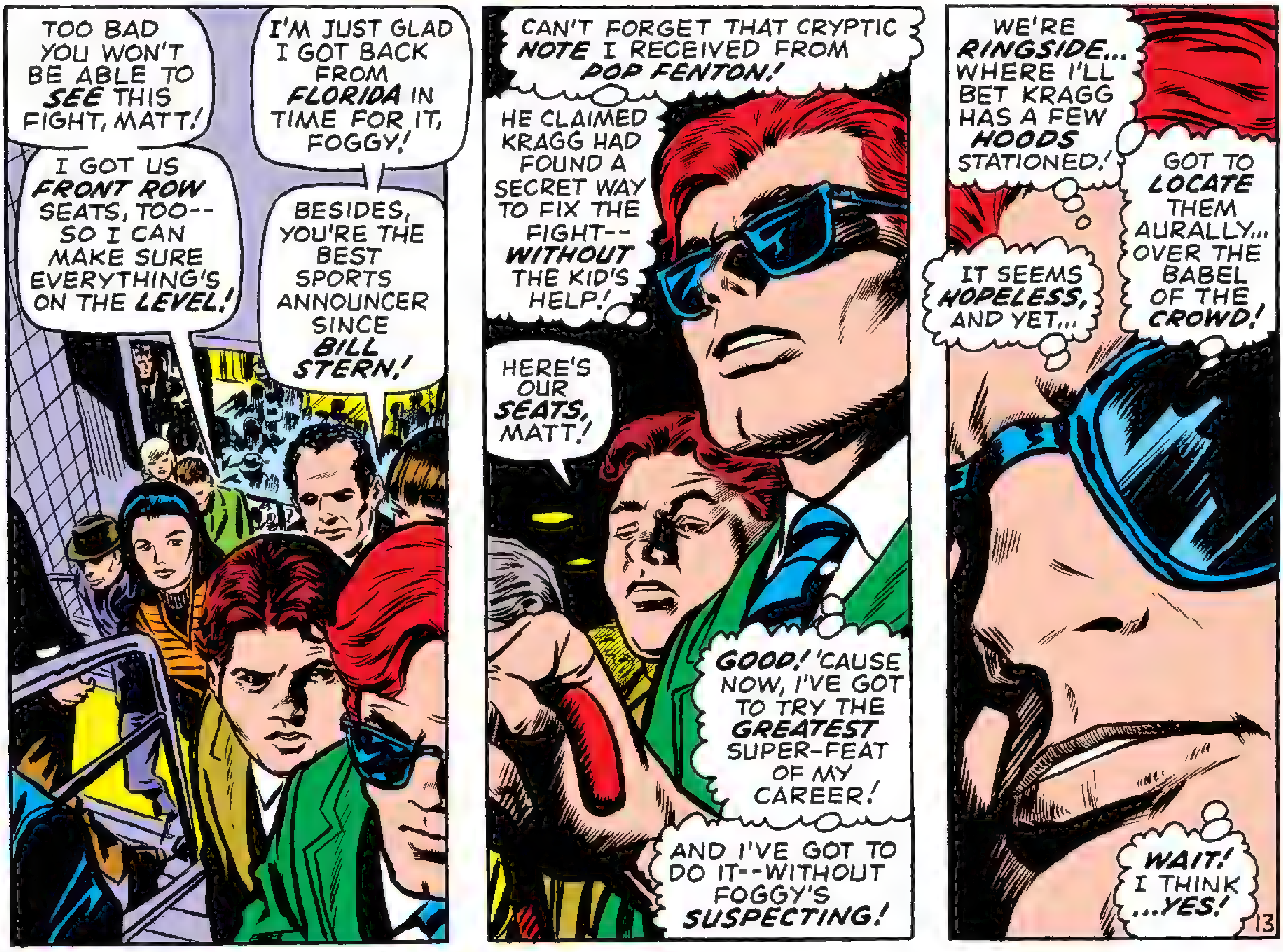

POP! YOU DIRTY CRUMB-- YOU HIT POP!
GET OUTTA HERE-- AND I MEAN NOW!!
AND LET MURDOCK BE! CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S BLIND?
SO WHAT, KID?
SO THIS, KRAGG!
BAM
I NEVER WORRIED MUCH ABOUT WHO OWNED ME--AS LONG AS I GOT TO FIGHT!
BUT IF YOU THINK YOU CREEPS CAN PUSH ME AROUND--AND POP--AND A GUY LIKE MURDOCK--
YOU GOT ANOTHER THINK COMIN'!
MURDOCK! YOU BETTER TAKE OFF--AND LET ME HANDLE THIS!
KID--ARE YOU SURE--?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? MOVE IT, MISTER!
WHAT ELSE ARE YOU GONNA DO, SON?
YOU HEARD THE KID-- BEAT IT!

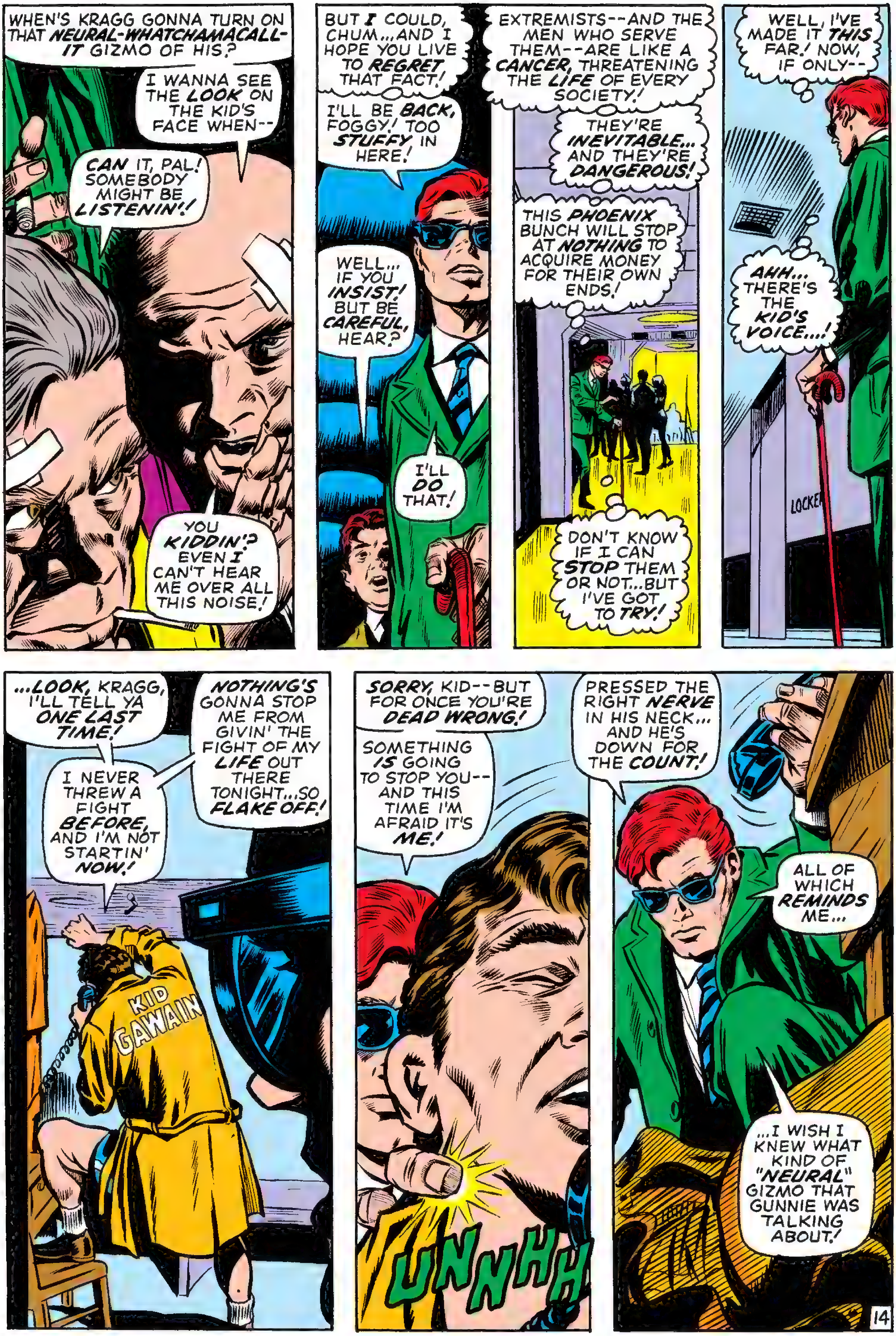

I HATE SPLITTING LIKE THIS!
LUCKILY, KRAGG WON'T RISK HURTING HIS GOLD MINE!
ALSO LUCKILY, NOBODY CAN SEE I'M A BIT MORE SPRY THAN I LET ON!
SO--MURDOCK AND POP WERE RIGHT ABOUT YOU CRUMBS!
THAT TEARS IT! AFTER THIS NEXT FIGHT--I'VE HAD IT!
KID GAWAINE
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, MY FRIEND --IN MORE WAYS THAN YOU KNOW!
THE NEXT EVENING, IN MANHATTAN...
HADDA GET AWAY FROM THE CAMP FOR A WHILE... THINK THINGS THRU!
NOW I KNOW THAT KRAGG WANTS ME TO TAKE A DIVE--
--SO HE CAN MAKE A FORTUNE FOR HIS SO-CALLED "CAUSE" BY BETTING LIKE CRAZY AGAINST ME!
I DUNNO... MAYBE I SHOULD PLAY BALL WITH HIM... IT'D SET ME UP FOR LIFE, AND...
CAR... STOPPING BEHIND ME! WHAT--?
THERE HE IS! TAKE 'IM!
NO SWEAT, CHARLIE--
--HE'S TAKEN!
WATCH IT! THE BOSS JUST SAID TO SOFTEN 'IM UP A LITTLE!
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE A HOSPITAL CASE OUT OF 'IM!

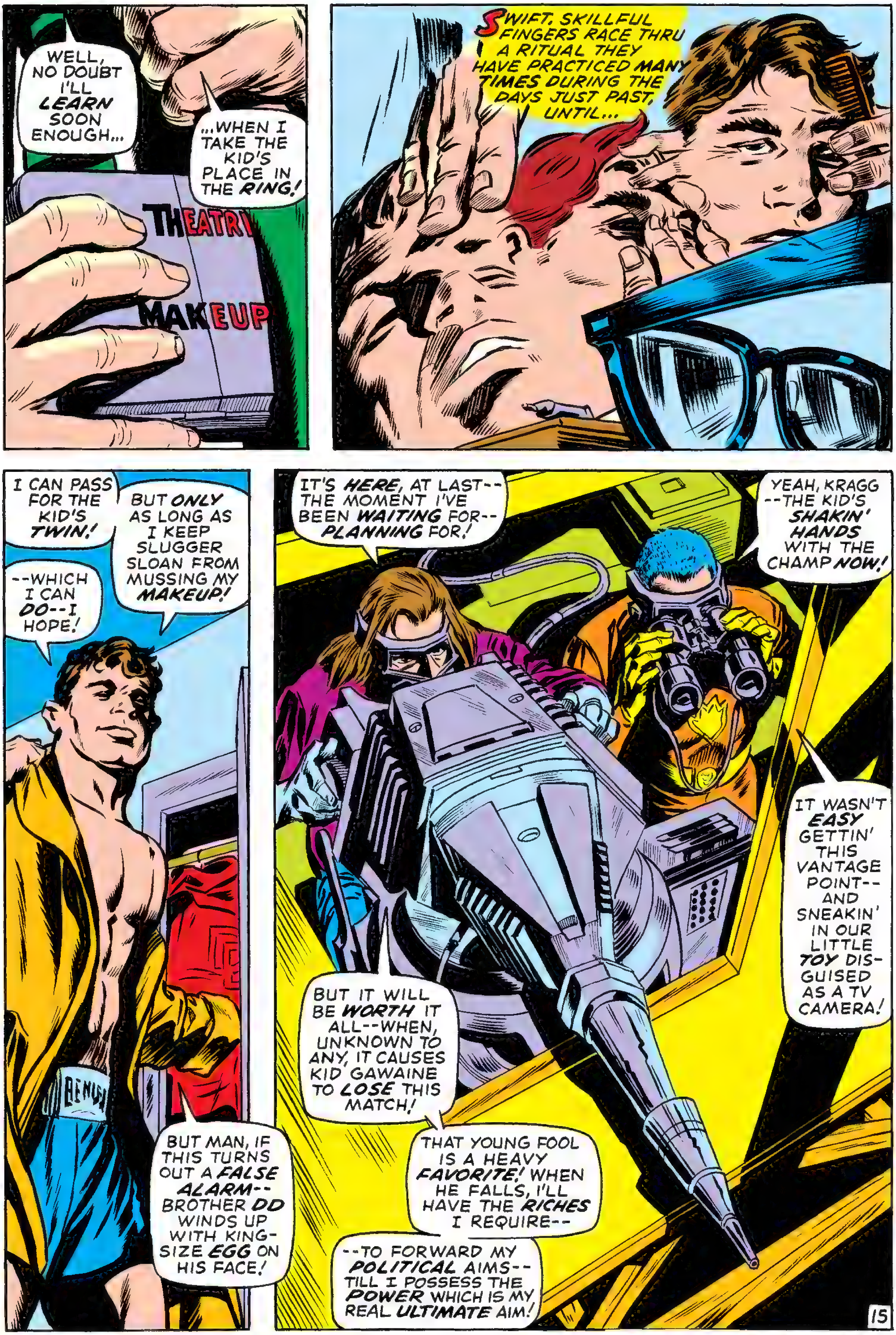

AW, ONE LITTLE BUMP ON THE *HEAD* WON'T HURT 'IM --*MUCH!*
GLAD TO --HEAR YOU-- *SAY* THAT--
IT KIND'A MAKES ME FEEL *BETTER* ABOUT EVERYTHING!
SNOK!
TALK BRAVE WHILE YA *CAN*, KID!
YA WON'T *TALK* SO MUCH--WITH A SWOLLEN *JAW!*
HOLD 'IM-- WHILE I *FINISH* 'IM!
THREE AGAINST ONE AGAIN, EH? THAT SEEMS TO BE YOU BOYS' FAVORITE *ODDS!*
I TAKE IT YOU'LL SPARE ME THE USELESS *DENIALS* THAT YOU'RE SOME OF *KRAGG'S* LITTLE PLAYMATES!?
KPOK!
WRAM!

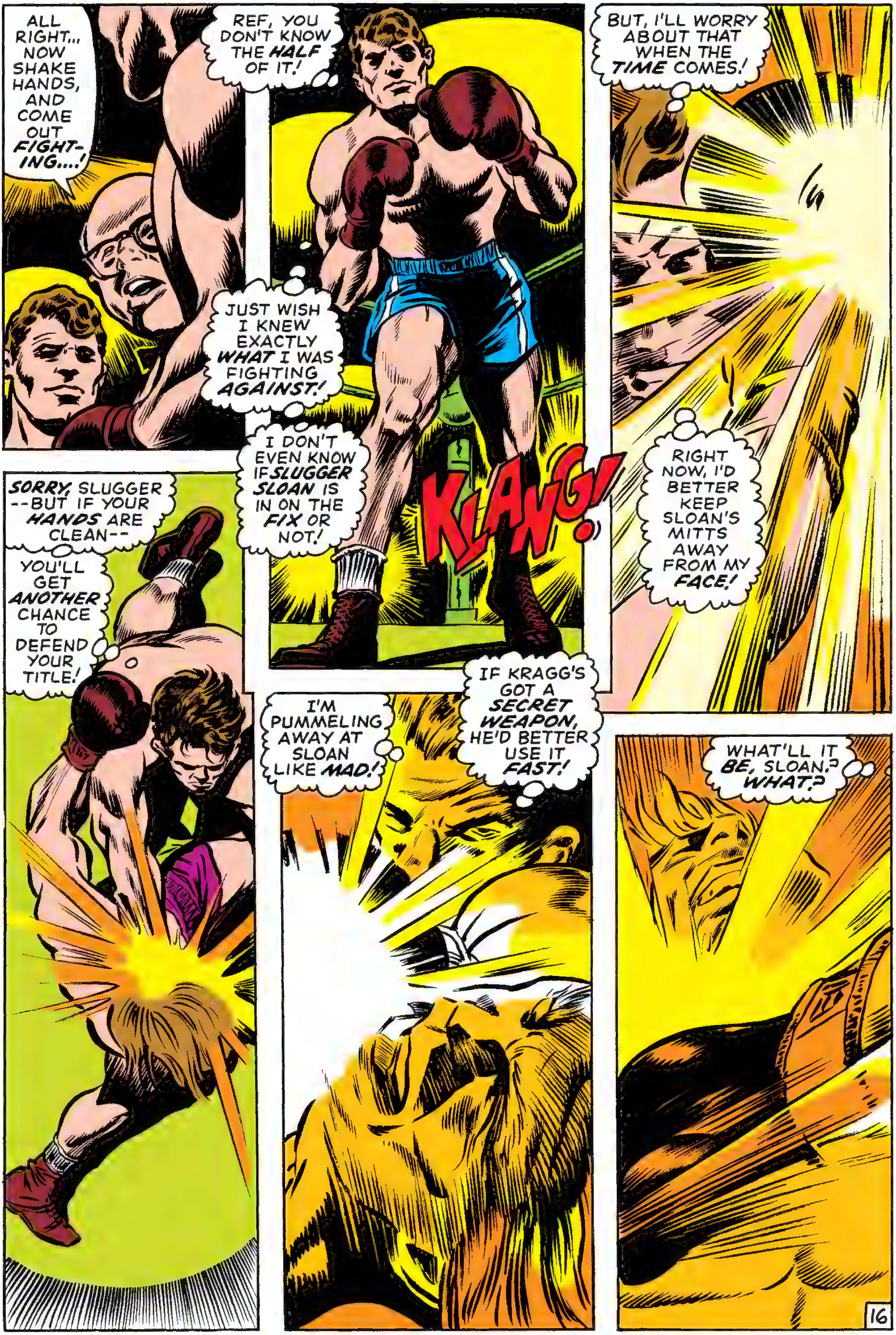

WE AINT ADMITTIN' *NOTHIN'*, DAREDEVIL!
WHAT'S MORE, WE AINT GOT *NO* ORDERS ABOUT NOT MAKIN' *YOU* NO STRETCHER CASE!
THRAK!
FRIEND, AT THIS STAGE, I'M NOT SURE IF I SHOULD SLUG YOU TO HELP *KID GAWAINE...*
...OR TO STOP YOU FROM BUTCHERING ANY MORE OF THE *KING'S ENGLISH!*
UH OH! ANOTHER ONE... RUSHING AT ME FROM MY *RIGHT!*
GOOD OL' *RADAR SENSE!* IT'S LIKE HAVING EYES IN THE BACK OF MY *HEAD!*
SOMETIMES I EVEN THINK I WOULDN'T GIVE ALL THIS *UP* IN ORDER TO HAVE MY *SIGHT* BACK AGAIN!
YEAH... *SOMETIMES...!*
NOW WHAT MADE ME THINK OF *THAT* IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS FREE-FOR-ALL?
THAT WAY LIES *MADNESS,* DD! BACK TO *BUSINESS!*
YOU *OKAY,* KID?
MY BUDDY *MATT MURDOCK* ASKED ME TO KEEP AN *EYE* ON YOU!
THAT EXPLAINS A LOT OF *QUESTIONS* I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU, MASKED MAN!

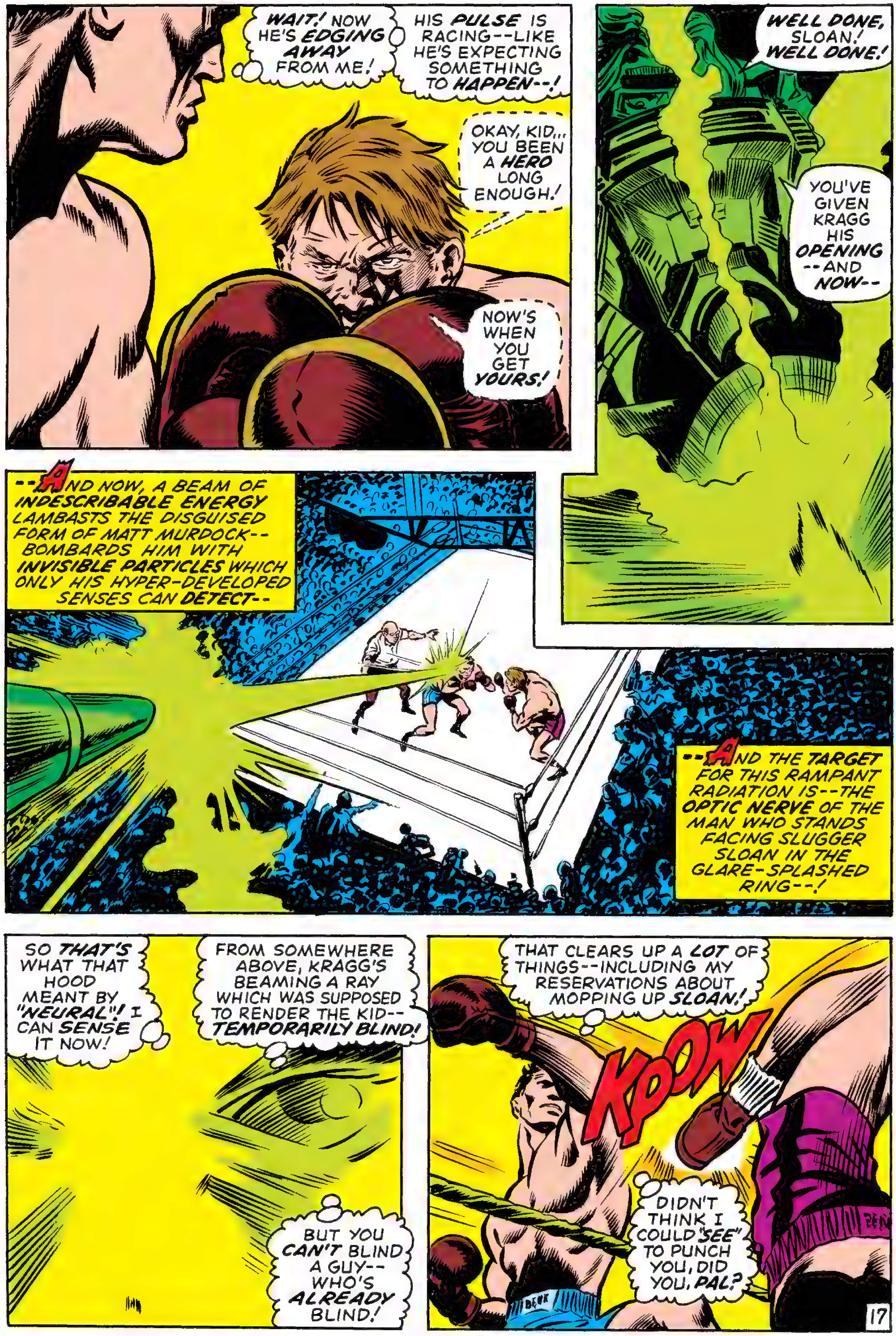

Y'KNOW, IN A WAY, I OWE THOSE STUMBLE-BUMS A VOTE OF THANKS!
I HAD A DECISION TO MAKE--AND THEY HELPED ME MAKE IT!
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, IT'LL BE THE RIGHT ONE!
AND BY THE BY--
--GOOD LUCK ON THAT MATCH YOU'VE GOT COMING UP!
WITH THAT RIGHT HOOK OF YOURS--YOU'RE A SHOO-IN!
YES, THAT'S WHAT I SAID... BUT NOW THAT THE BIG NIGHT IS HERE, I'M NOT SO SURE!
DID SOME SLEUTHING AROUND...AND, UNDER A BUNCH OF ALIASES, KRAGG'S CROWD HAS A BUNDLE RIDING ON THE KID'S OPPONENT!
CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT TONIT
SLUGGER SLOAN
VS. KID GAWAINE
THAT'S GOT TO MEAN... A FIX!
FARE'S $1.80? HERE... KEEP THE CHANGE!
TAXI
OUT OF A WHOLE $2 BILL? YER ALL HEART, MAC!

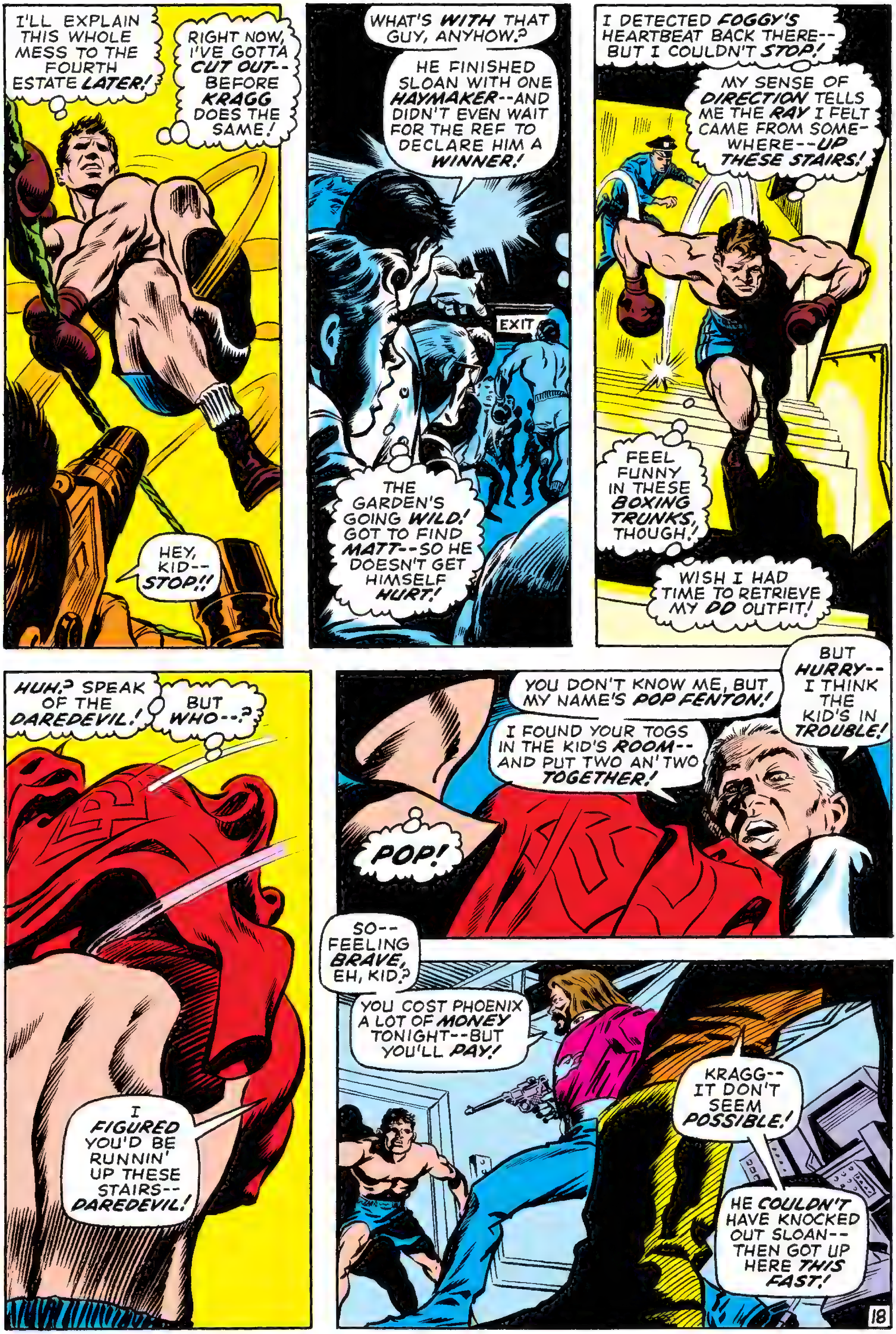

TOO BAD YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THIS FIGHT, MATT!
I GOT US FRONT ROW SEATS, TOO--SO I CAN MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S ON THE LEVEL!
I'M JUST GLAD I GOT BACK FROM FLORIDA IN TIME FOR IT, FOGGY!
BESIDES, YOU'RE THE BEST SPORTS ANNOUNCER SINCE BILL STERN!
CAN'T FORGET THAT CRYPTIC NOTE I RECEIVED FROM POP FENTON!
HE CLAIMED KRAGG HAD FOUND A SECRET WAY TO FIX THE FIGHT--WITHOUT THE KID'S HELP!
HERE'S OUR SEATS, MATT!
GOOD! 'CAUSE NOW, I'VE GOT TO TRY THE GREATEST SUPER-FEAT OF MY CAREER!
AND I'VE GOT TO DO IT--WITHOUT FOGGY'S SUSPECTING!
WE'RE RINGSIDE... WHERE I'LL BET KRAGG HAS A FEW HOODS STATIONED!
GOT TO LOCATE THEM AURALLY... OVER THE BABEL OF THE CROWD!
IT SEEMS HOPELESS, AND YET...
WAIT! I THINK ...YES!

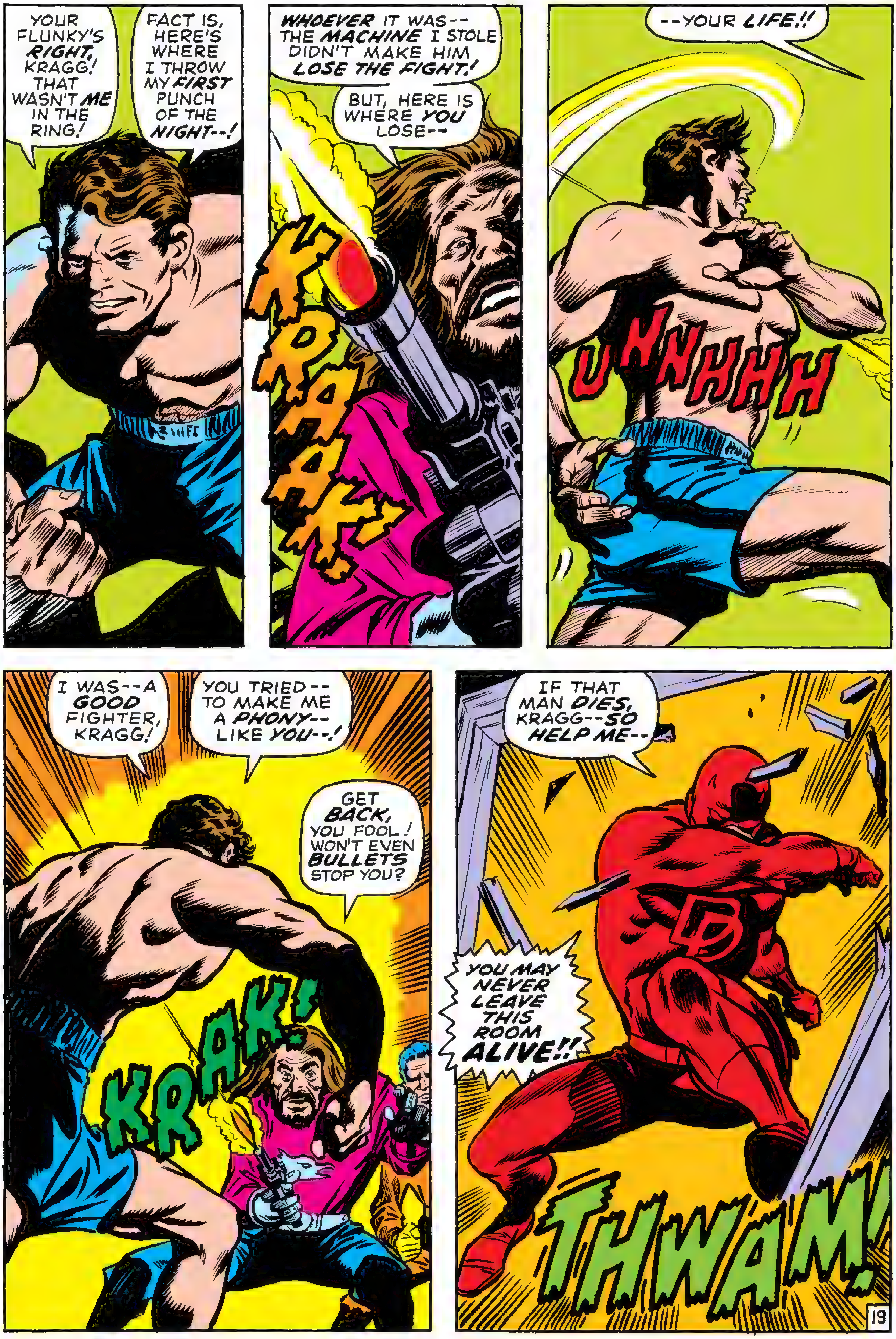

WHEN'S KRAGG GONNA TURN ON THAT **NEURAL-WHATCHAMACALL-IT** GIZMO OF HIS?
I WANNA SEE THE **LOOK** ON THE KID'S FACE WHEN--
CAN IT, PAL! SOMEBODY MIGHT BE **LISTENIN'!**
YOU **KIDDIN'?** EVEN **I** CAN'T HEAR ME OVER ALL THIS NOISE!
BUT **I** COULD, CHUM...AND I HOPE YOU LIVE TO **REGRET** THAT FACT!
I'LL BE **BACK,** FOGGY! TOO **STUFFY** IN HERE!
WELL... IF YOU **INSIST!** BUT BE **CAREFUL,** HEAR?
I'LL **DO** THAT!
EXTREMISTS--AND THE MEN WHO SERVE THEM--ARE LIKE A **CANCER,** THREATENING THE **LIFE** OF EVERY SOCIETY!
THEY'RE **INEVITABLE...** AND THEY'RE **DANGEROUS!**
THIS **PHOENIX** BUNCH WILL STOP AT **NOTHING** TO ACQUIRE MONEY FOR THEIR OWN ENDS!
DON'T KNOW IF I CAN **STOP** THEM OR NOT...BUT I'VE GOT TO **TRY!**
WELL, I'VE MADE IT **THIS** FAR! NOW, IF ONLY--
AHH... THERE'S THE **KID'S VOICE...!**
LOCKER
...**LOOK,** KRAGG, I'LL TELL YA **ONE LAST TIME!**
I NEVER THREW A FIGHT **BEFORE,** AND I'M NOT STARTIN' **NOW!**
NOTHING'S GONNA STOP ME FROM GIVIN' THE FIGHT OF MY **LIFE** OUT THERE TONIGHT...SO **FLAKE OFF!**
KID GAWAIN
SORRY, KID--BUT FOR ONCE YOU'RE **DEAD WRONG!**
SOMETHING **IS** GOING TO STOP YOU--AND THIS TIME I'M AFRAID IT'S **ME!**
UNNHH
PRESSED THE RIGHT **NERVE** IN HIS NECK... AND HE'S DOWN FOR THE **COUNT!**
ALL OF WHICH **REMINDS** ME...
...I WISH I KNEW WHAT KIND OF **"NEURAL"** GIZMO THAT GUNNIE WAS TALKING ABOUT!

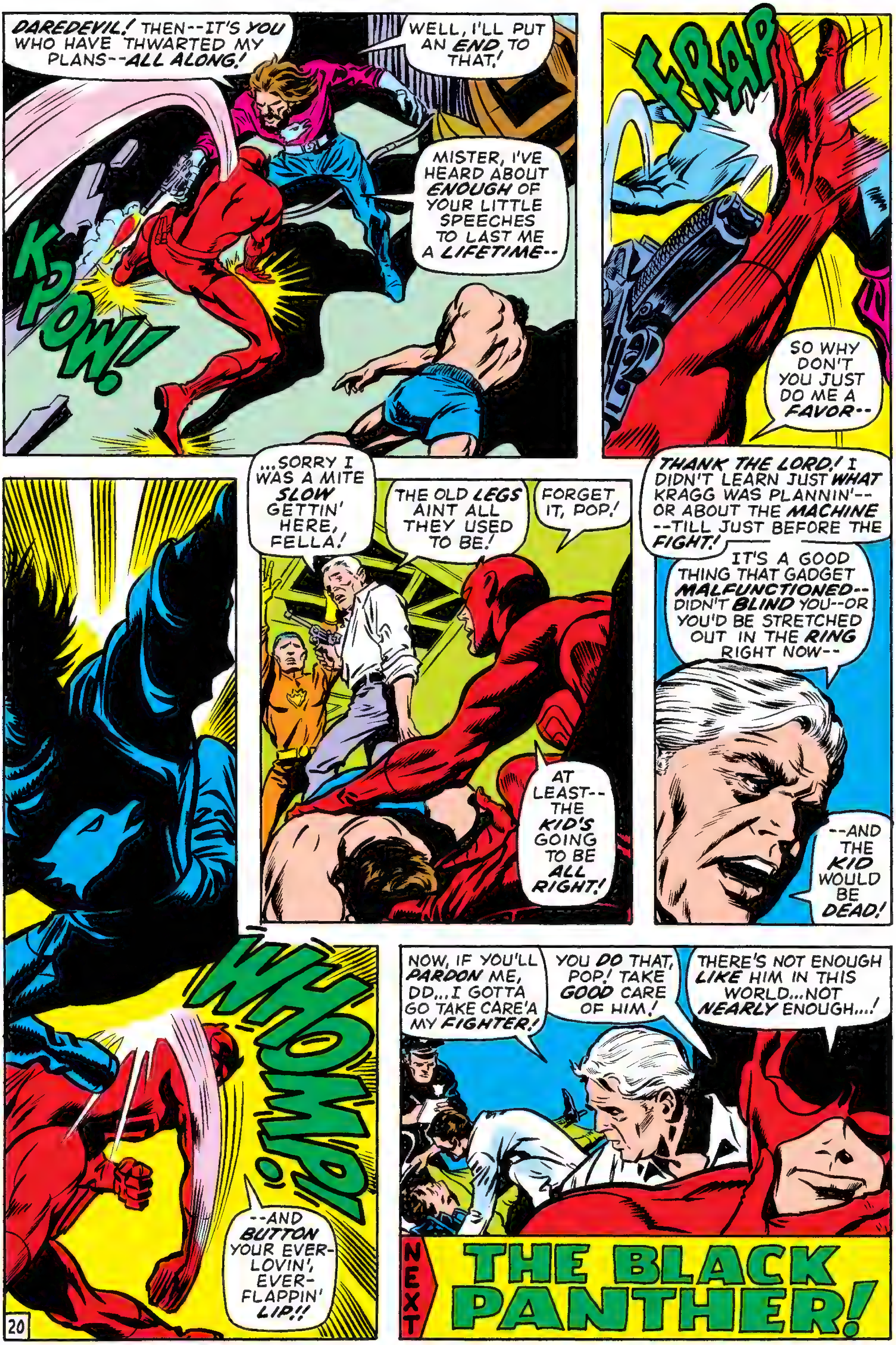

WELL, NO DOUBT I'LL LEARN SOON ENOUGH...
...WHEN I TAKE THE KID'S PLACE IN THE RING!
THEATRICAL MAKEUP
SWIFT, SKILLFUL FINGERS RACE THRU A RITUAL THEY HAVE PRACTICED MANY TIMES DURING THE DAYS JUST PAST, UNTIL...
I CAN PASS FOR THE KID'S TWIN!
--WHICH I CAN DO--I HOPE!
BUT ONLY AS LONG AS I KEEP SLUGGER SLOAN FROM MUSSING MY MAKEUP!
BUT MAN, IF THIS TURNS OUT A FALSE ALARM--BROTHER DD WINDS UP WITH KING-SIZE EGG ON HIS FACE!
EVERLAST
IT'S HERE, AT LAST--THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--PLANNING FOR!
YEAH, KRAGG--THE KID'S SHAKIN' HANDS WITH THE CHAMP NOW!
IT WASN'T EASY GETTIN' THIS VANTAGE POINT--AND SNEAKIN' IN OUR LITTLE TOY DISGUISED AS A TV CAMERA!
BUT IT WILL BE WORTH IT ALL--WHEN, UNKNOWN TO ANY, IT CAUSES KID GAWAINE TO LOSE THIS MATCH!
THAT YOUNG FOOL IS A HEAVY FAVORITE! WHEN HE FALLS, I'LL HAVE THE RICHES I REQUIRE--
--TO FORWARD MY POLITICAL AIMS--TILL I POSSESS THE POWER WHICH IS MY REAL ULTIMATE AIM!


ALL RIGHT... NOW SHAKE HANDS, AND COME OUT *FIGHTING...!*
REF, YOU DON'T KNOW THE *HALF* OF IT!
JUST WISH I KNEW EXACTLY *WHAT* I WAS FIGHTING *AGAINST!*
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF *SLUGGER SLOAN* IS IN ON THE *FIX* OR NOT!
BUT, I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN THE *TIME* COMES!
KLANG!
RIGHT NOW, I'D BETTER KEEP SLOAN'S MITTS AWAY FROM MY *FACE!*
SORRY, SLUGGER --BUT IF YOUR *HANDS* ARE CLEAN--
YOU'LL GET *ANOTHER* CHANCE TO DEFEND YOUR TITLE!
I'M PUMMELING AWAY AT SLOAN LIKE *MAD!*
IF KRAGG'S GOT A *SECRET WEAPON,* HE'D BETTER USE IT *FAST!*
WHAT'LL IT *BE,* SLOAN? *WHAT?*

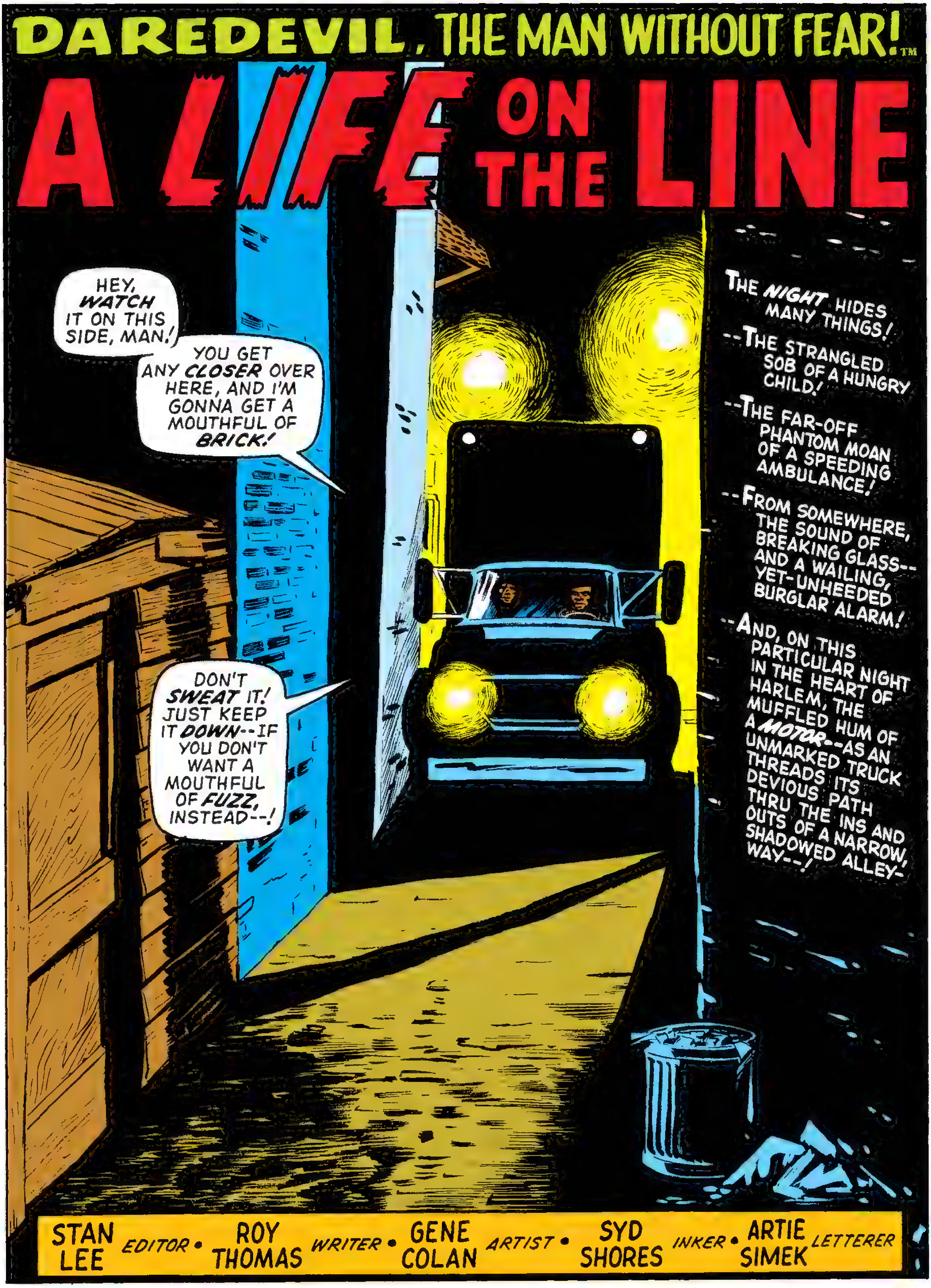

WAIT! NOW HE'S EDGING AWAY FROM ME!
HIS PULSE IS RACING--LIKE HE'S EXPECTING SOMETHING TO HAPPEN--!
OKAY, KID... YOU BEEN A HERO LONG ENOUGH!
NOW'S WHEN YOU GET YOURS!
WELL DONE, SLOAN! WELL DONE!
YOU'VE GIVEN KRAGG HIS OPENING --AND NOW--
--AND NOW, A BEAM OF INDESCRIBABLE ENERGY LAMBASTS THE DISGUISED FORM OF MATT MURDOCK--BOMBARDS HIM WITH INVISIBLE PARTICLES WHICH ONLY HIS HYPER-DEVELOPED SENSES CAN DETECT--
--AND THE TARGET FOR THIS RAMPANT RADIATION IS--THE OPTIC NERVE OF THE MAN WHO STANDS FACING SLUGGER SLOAN IN THE GLARE-SPLASHED RING--!
SO THAT'S WHAT THAT HOOD MEANT BY "NEURAL"! I CAN SENSE IT NOW!
FROM SOMEWHERE ABOVE, KRAGG'S BEAMING A RAY WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO RENDER THE KID--TEMPORARILY BLIND!
BUT YOU CAN'T BLIND A GUY--WHO'S ALREADY BLIND!
THAT CLEARS UP A LOT OF THINGS--INCLUDING MY RESERVATIONS ABOUT MOPPING UP SLOAN!
KOOW
DIDN'T THINK I COULD "SEE" TO PUNCH YOU, DID YOU, PAL?

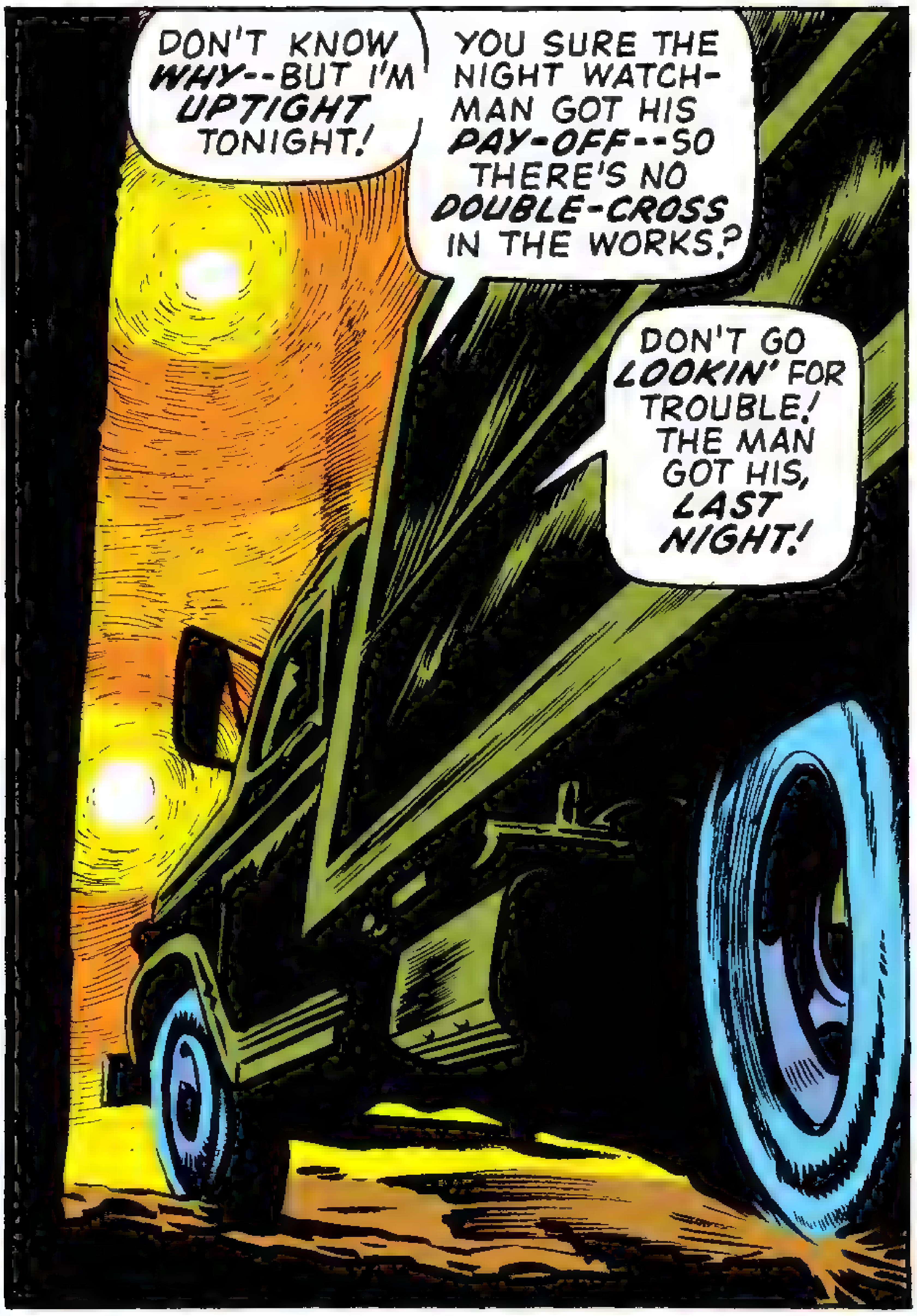

I'LL EXPLAIN THIS WHOLE MESS TO THE FOURTH ESTATE *LATER!*
RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOTTA *CUT OUT*-- BEFORE *KRAGG* DOES THE SAME!
HEY, KID-- *STOP!!*
WHAT'S *WITH* THAT GUY, ANYHOW?
HE FINISHED SLOAN WITH ONE *HAYMAKER*--AND DIDN'T EVEN WAIT FOR THE REF TO DECLARE HIM A *WINNER!*
EXIT
THE GARDEN'S GOING *WILD!* GOT TO FIND *MATT*--SO HE DOESN'T GET HIMSELF *HURT!*
I DETECTED *FOGGY'S* HEARTBEAT BACK THERE-- BUT I COULDN'T *STOP!*
MY SENSE OF *DIRECTION* TELLS ME THE *RAY* I FELT CAME FROM SOME-WHERE--*UP THESE STAIRS!*
FEEL FUNNY IN THESE *BOXING TRUNKS,* THOUGH!
WISH I HAD TIME TO RETRIEVE MY *DD* OUTFIT!
HUH? SPEAK OF THE *DAREDEVIL!*
BUT *WHO--?*
I *FIGURED* YOU'D BE RUNNIN' UP THESE STAIRS-- *DAREDEVIL!*
YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT MY NAME'S *POP FENTON!*
BUT *HURRY*-- I THINK THE KID'S IN *TROUBLE!*
I FOUND YOUR TOGS IN THE KID'S *ROOM*-- AND PUT TWO AN' TWO *TOGETHER!*
POP!
SO-- FEELING *BRAVE,* EH, KID?
YOU COST PHOENIX A LOT OF *MONEY* TONIGHT--BUT YOU'LL *PAY!*
KRAGG-- IT DON'T SEEM *POSSIBLE!*
HE *COULDN'T* HAVE KNOCKED OUT SLOAN-- THEN GOT UP HERE *THIS FAST!*

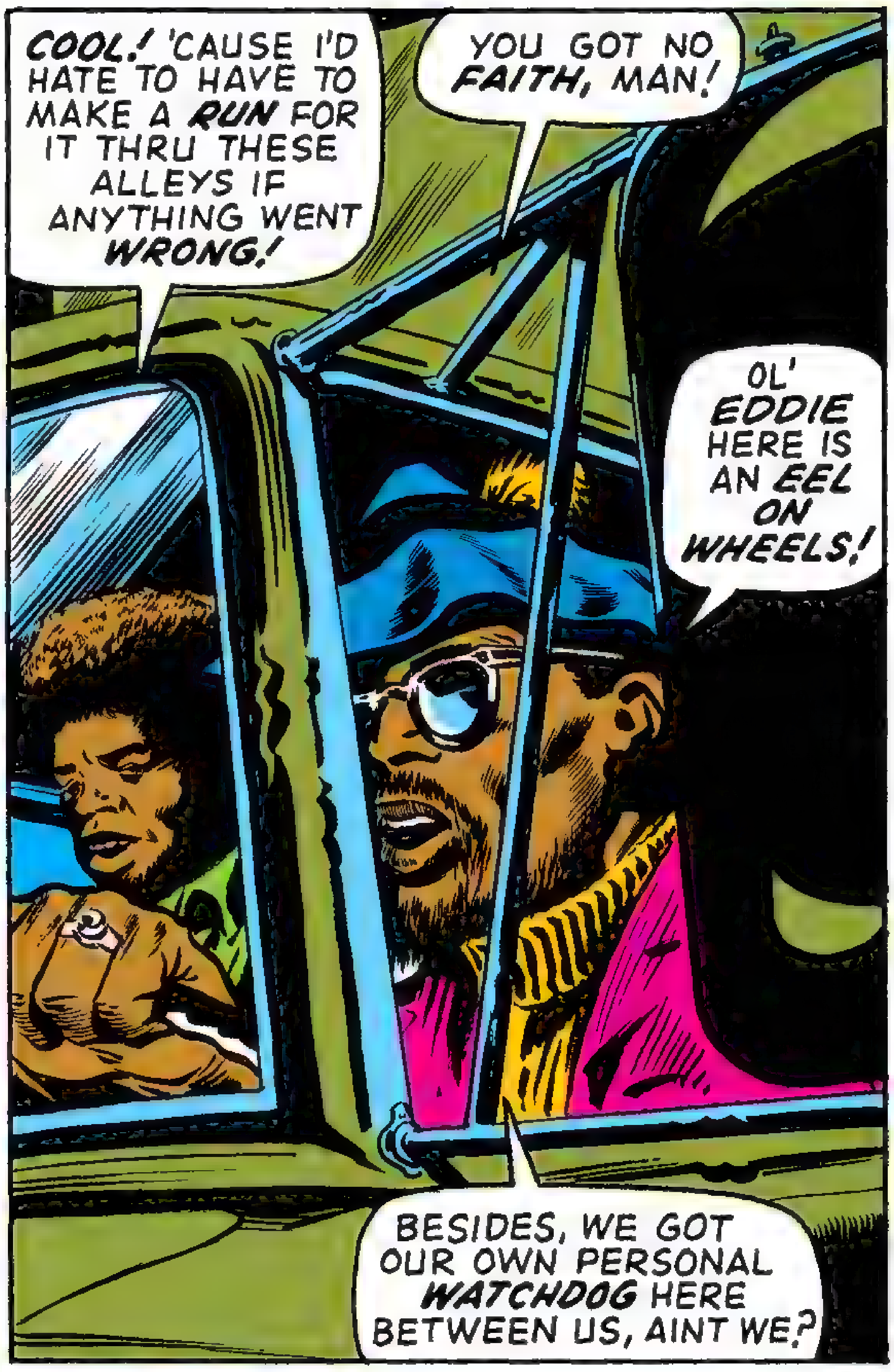

YOUR FLUNKY'S *RIGHT,* KRAGG! THAT WASN'T *ME* IN THE RING!
FACT IS, HERE'S WHERE I THROW MY *FIRST* PUNCH OF THE *NIGHT*--!
WHOEVER IT WAS-- THE *MACHINE* I STOLE DIDN'T MAKE HIM *LOSE THE FIGHT!*
BUT, HERE IS WHERE *YOU* LOSE--
KRAAAK!
--YOUR *LIFE!!*
UNNHHHH
I WAS--A *GOOD* FIGHTER, KRAGG!
YOU TRIED-- TO MAKE ME A *PHONY*-- LIKE *YOU*--!
GET *BACK,* YOU FOOL! WON'T EVEN *BULLETS* STOP YOU?
KRAK!
IF THAT MAN *DIES,* KRAGG--*SO HELP ME*--
YOU MAY NEVER LEAVE THIS ROOM *ALIVE!!*
THWAM!

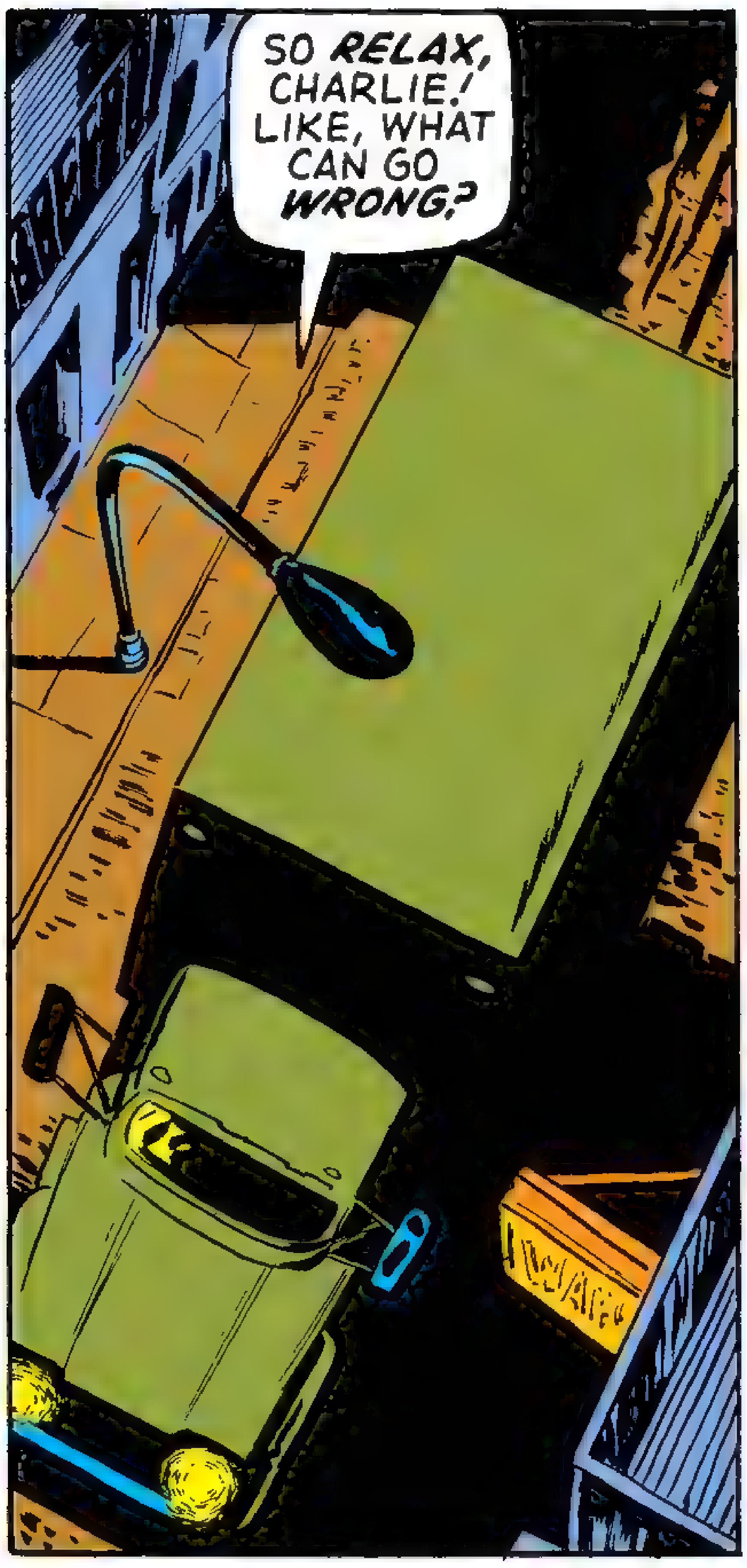

DAREDEVIL! THEN--IT'S YOU WHO HAVE THWARTED MY PLANS--ALL ALONG!
WELL, I'LL PUT AN END TO THAT!
MISTER, I'VE HEARD ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOUR LITTLE SPEECHES TO LAST ME A LIFETIME--
K-POW!
FRAP
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO ME A FAVOR--
WHOMP!
--AND BUTTON YOUR EVER-LOVIN', EVER-FLAPPIN' LIP!!
...SORRY I WAS A MITE SLOW GETTIN' HERE, FELLA!
THE OLD LEGS AINT ALL THEY USED TO BE!
FORGET IT, POP!
AT LEAST--THE KID'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!
THANK THE LORD! I DIDN'T LEARN JUST WHAT KRAGG WAS PLANNIN'--OR ABOUT THE MACHINE--TILL JUST BEFORE THE FIGHT!
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT GADGET MALFUNCTIONED--DIDN'T BLIND YOU--OR YOU'D BE STRETCHED OUT IN THE RING RIGHT NOW--
--AND THE KID WOULD BE DEAD!
NOW, IF YOU'LL PARDON ME, DD...I GOTTA GO TAKE CARE'A MY FIGHTER!
YOU DO THAT, POP! TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM!
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH LIKE HIM IN THIS WORLD...NOT NEARLY ENOUGH...!
NEXT
THE BLACK PANTHER!

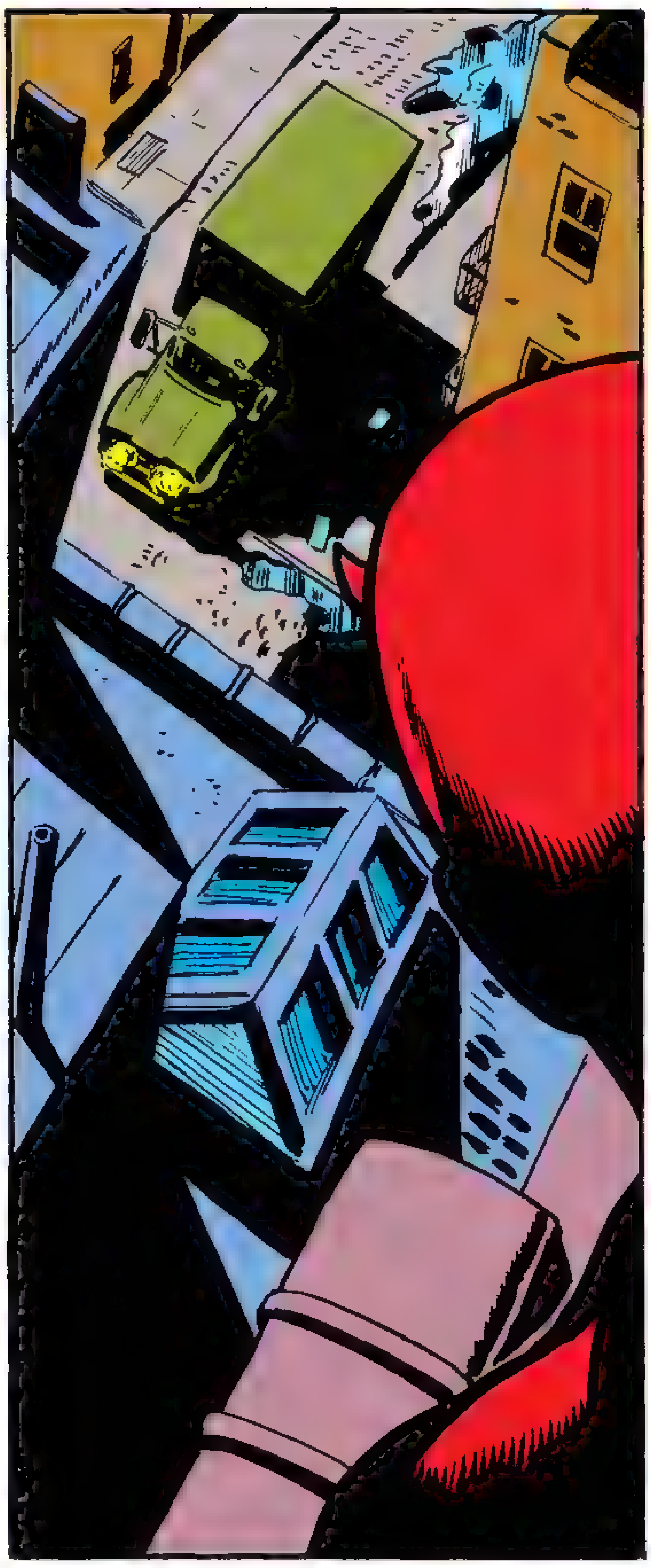
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
CC
69
OCT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE CA AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THIS LAD IS SINKING FAST! HE'S LOST THE WILL TO LIVE!
AS LONG AS THE MURDEROUS THUNDERBOLTS ARE ON THE LOOSE-- NO ONE IN THIS CITY IS SAFE!
AND--IT'S OUR FAULT, DD!
THEN THEY WON'T BE ON THE LOOSE MUCH LONGER! THIS I SWEAR!!
A LIFE ON THE LINE!

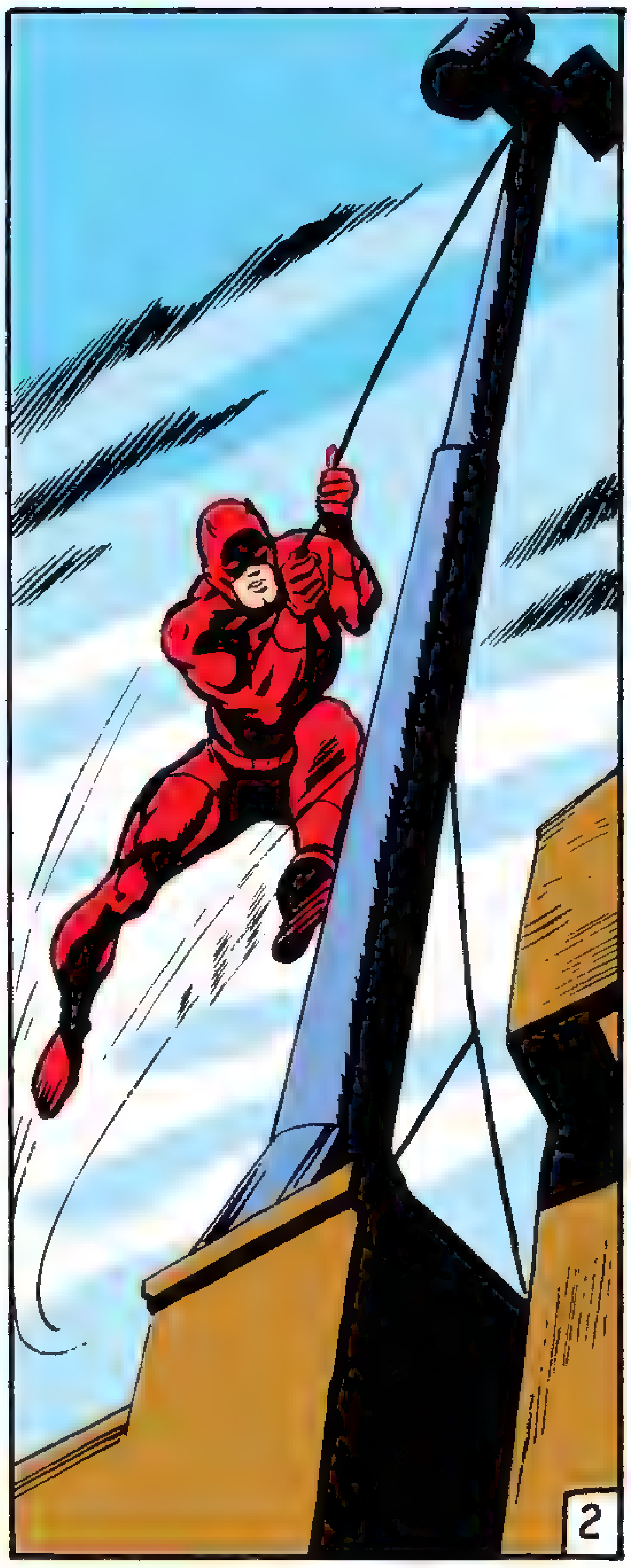

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™
A LIFE ON THE LINE
HEY, *WATCH* IT ON THIS SIDE, MAN!
YOU GET ANY *CLOSER* OVER HERE, AND I'M GONNA GET A MOUTHFUL OF *BRICK!*
DON'T *SWEAT* IT! JUST KEEP IT *DOWN*--IF YOU DON'T WANT A MOUTHFUL OF *FUZZ,* INSTEAD--!
THE *NIGHT* HIDES MANY THINGS! --THE STRANGLED SOB OF A HUNGRY CHILD! --THE FAR-OFF PHANTOM MOAN OF A SPEEDING AMBULANCE! --FROM SOMEWHERE, THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS--AND A WAILING, YET-UNHEEDED BURGLAR ALARM! --AND, ON THIS PARTICULAR NIGHT IN THE HEART OF HARLEM, THE MUFFLED HUM OF A *MOTOR*--AS AN UNMARKED TRUCK THREADS ITS DEVIOUS PATH THRU THE INS AND OUTS OF A NARROW, SHADOWED ALLEY-WAY--!
STAN LEE *EDITOR* • ROY THOMAS *WRITER* • GENE COLAN *ARTIST* • SYD SHORES *INKER* • ARTIE SIMEK *LETTERER*

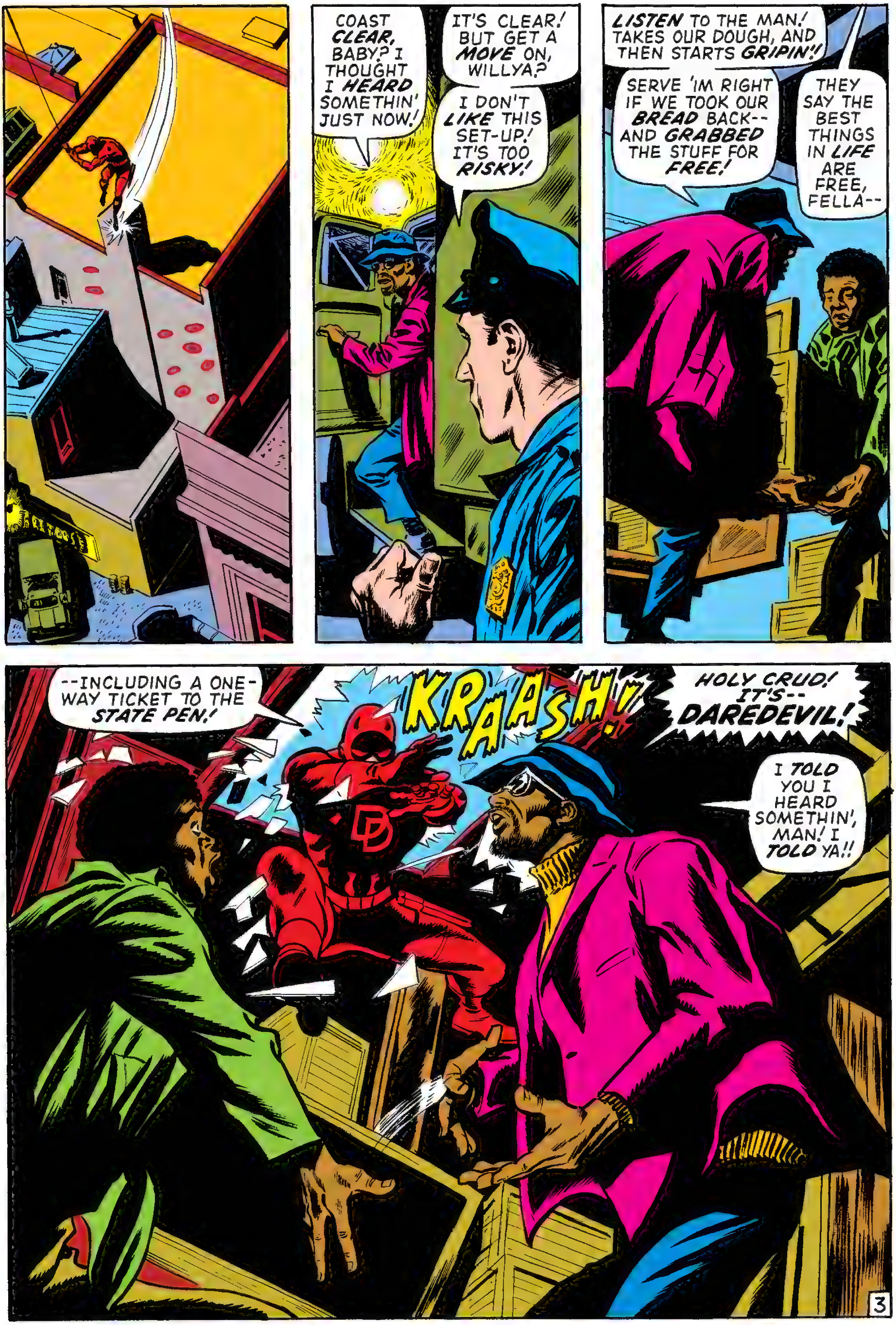

DON'T KNOW **WHY**--BUT I'M **UPTIGHT** TONIGHT!
YOU SURE THE NIGHT WATCHMAN GOT HIS **PAY-OFF**--SO THERE'S NO **DOUBLE-CROSS** IN THE WORKS?
DON'T GO **LOOKIN'** FOR TROUBLE! THE MAN GOT HIS, **LAST NIGHT!**

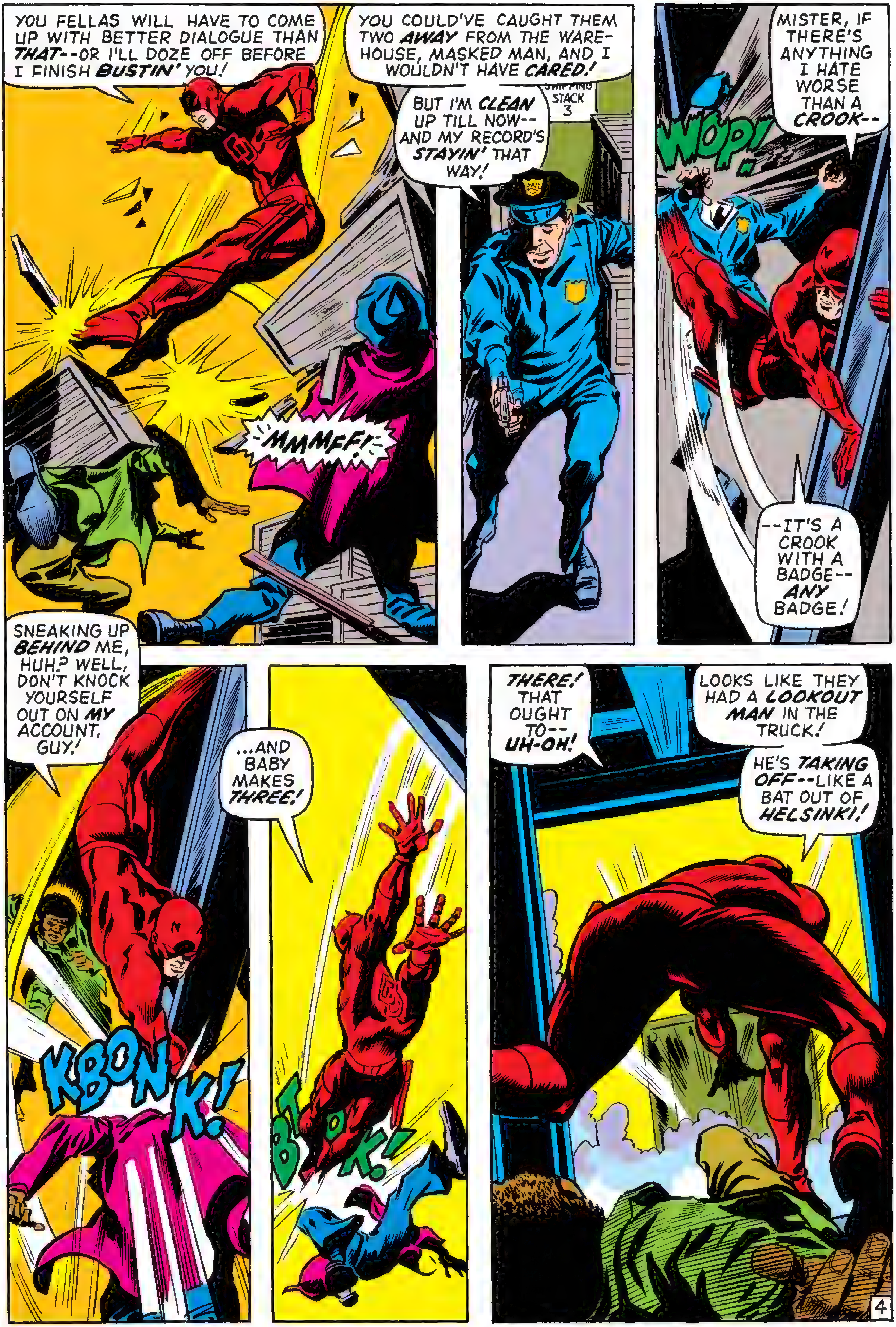

COOL! 'CAUSE I'D HATE TO HAVE TO MAKE A **RUN** FOR IT THRU THESE ALLEYS IF ANYTHING WENT **WRONG!**
YOU GOT NO **FAITH,** MAN!
OL' **EDDIE** HERE IS AN **EEL ON WHEELS!**
BESIDES, WE GOT OUR OWN PERSONAL **WATCHDOG** HERE BETWEEN US, AINT WE?

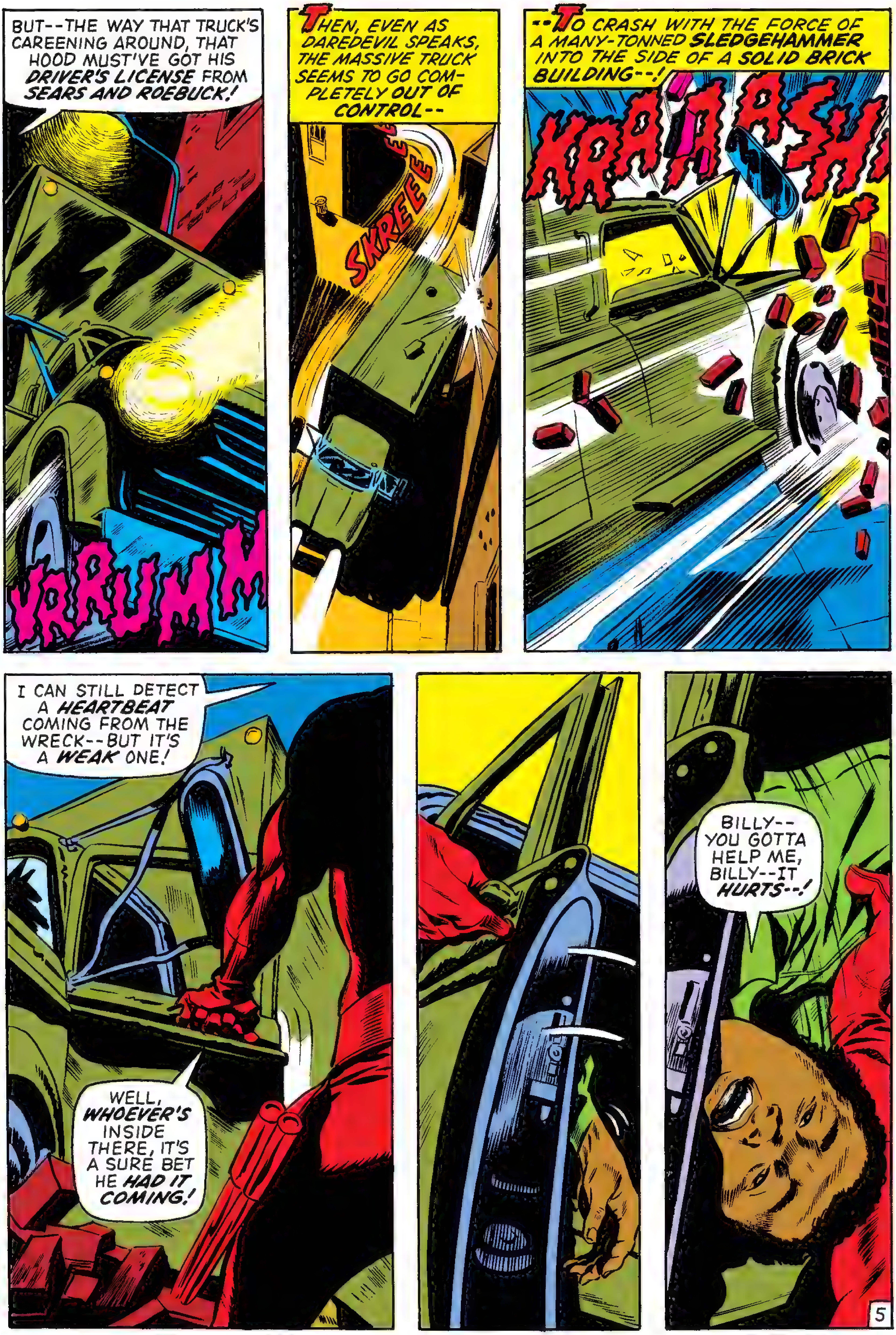

SO **RELAX,** CHARLIE! LIKE, WHAT CAN GO **WRONG?**

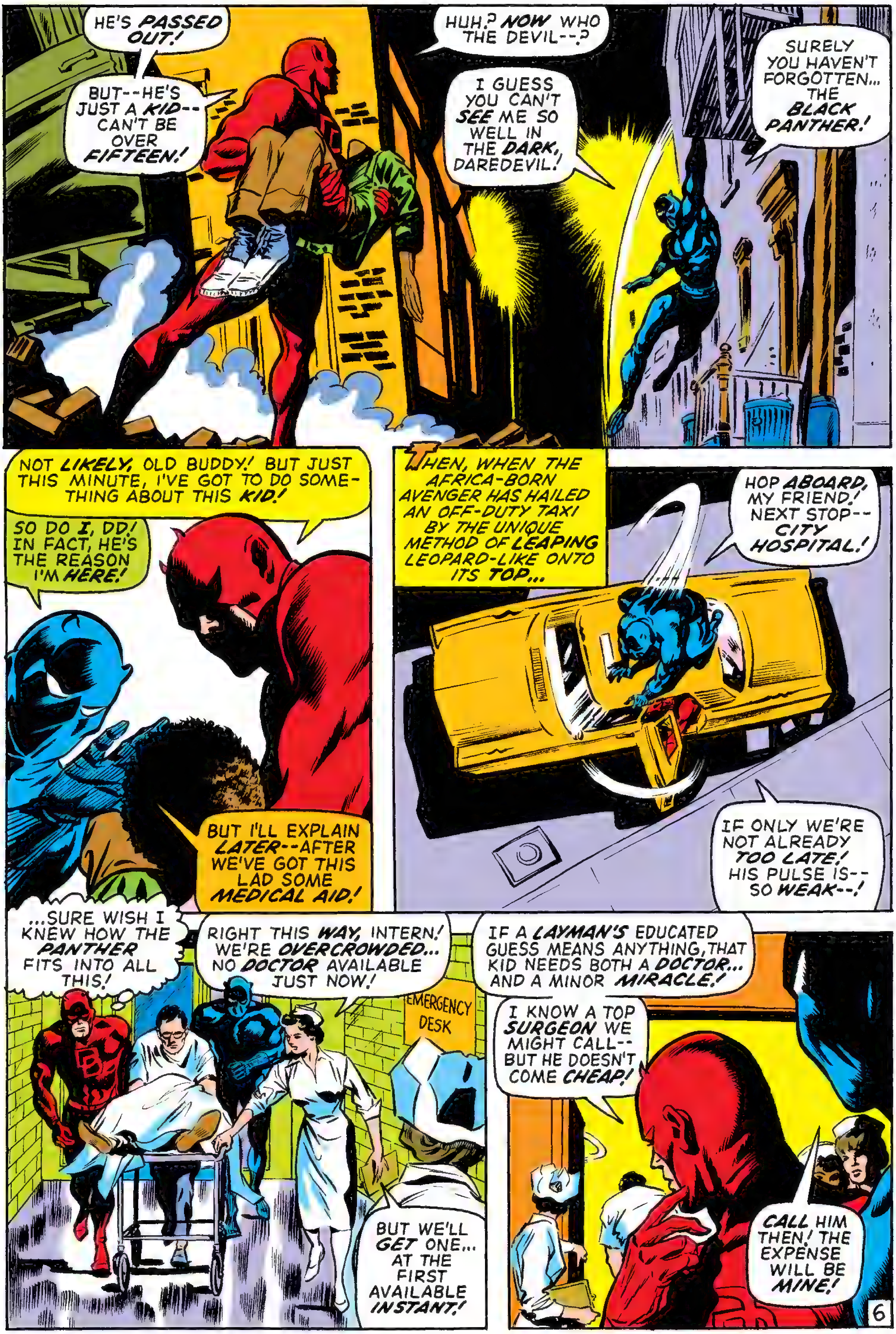


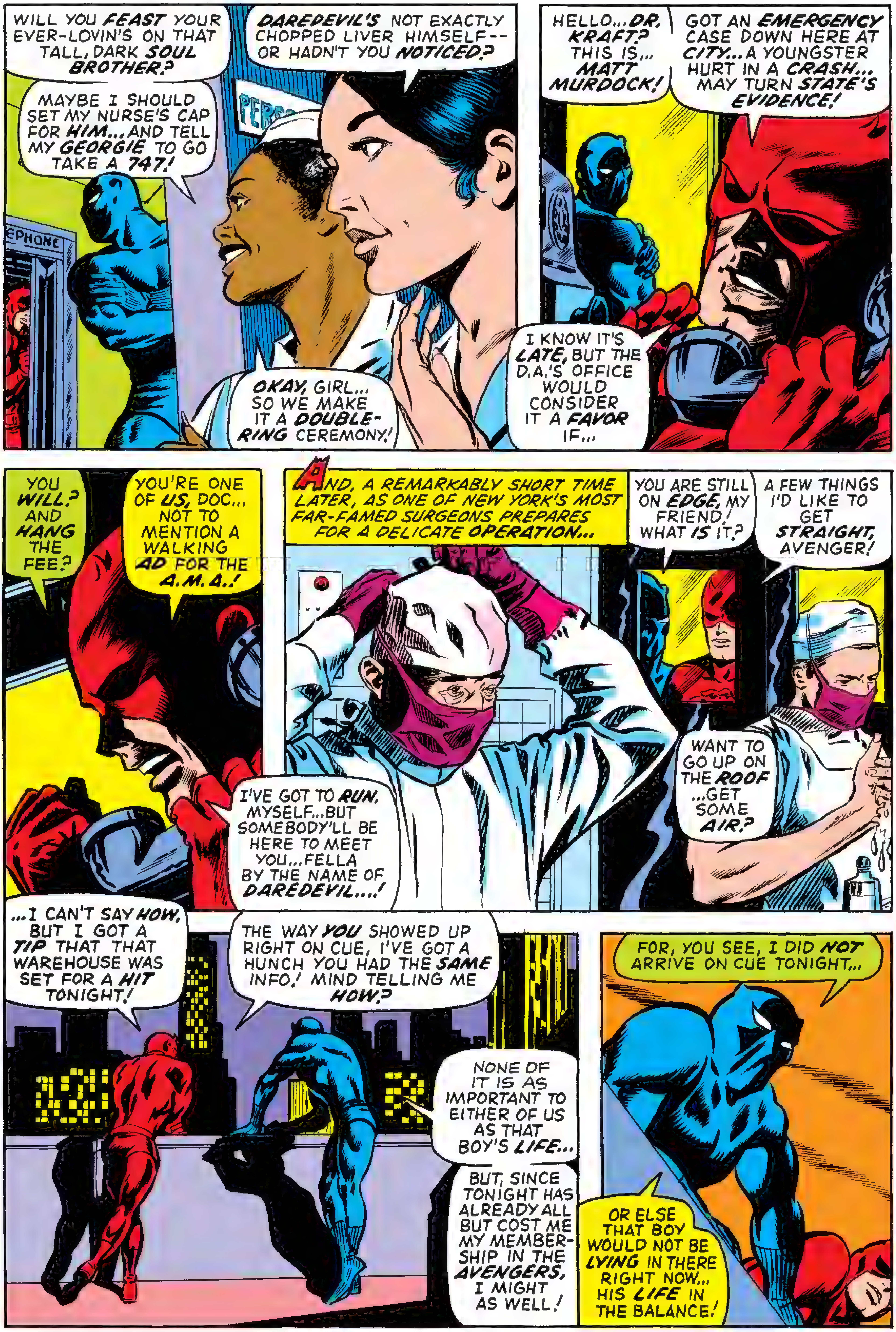


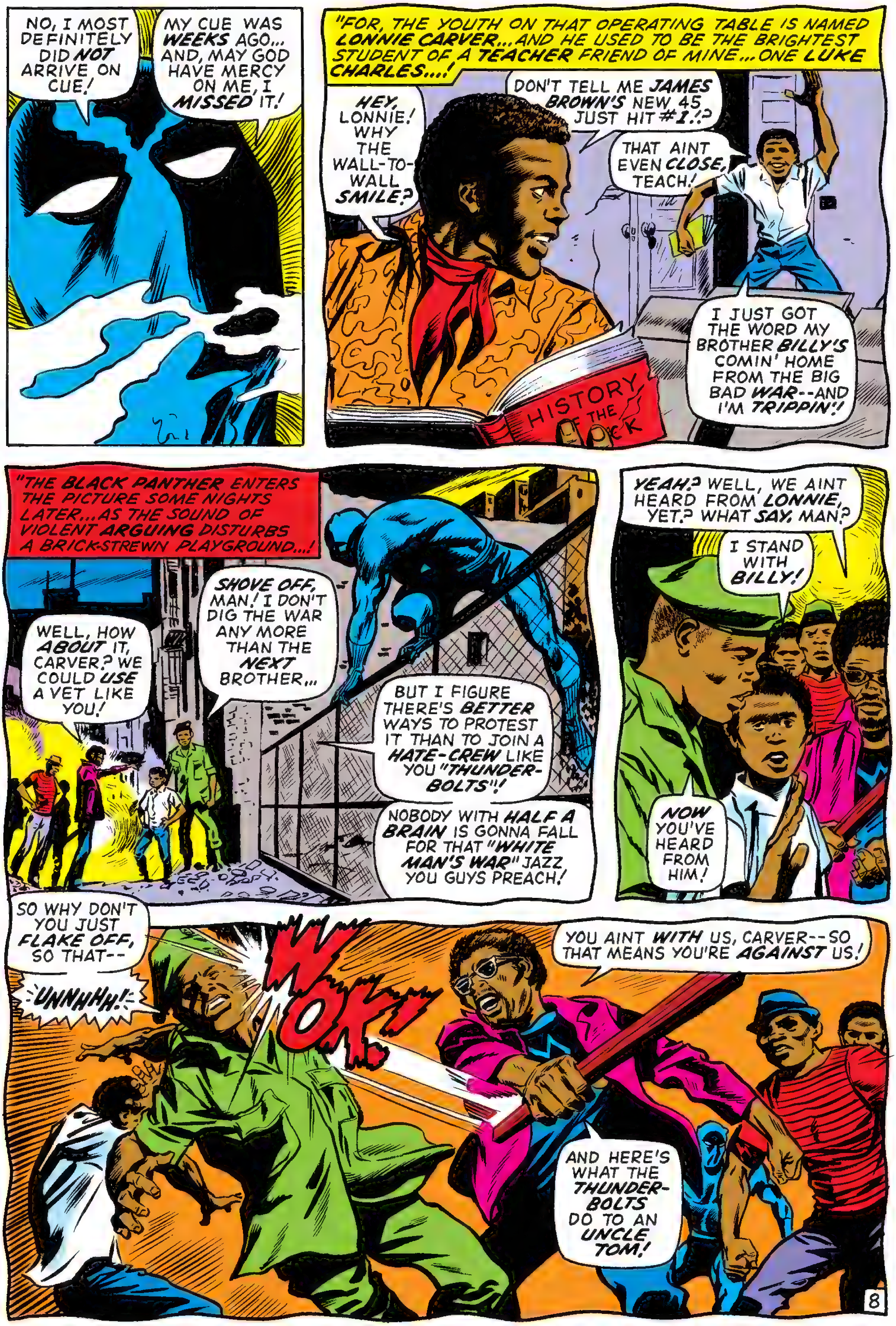

COAST **CLEAR,** BABY? I THOUGHT I **HEARD** SOMETHIN' JUST NOW!
IT'S CLEAR! BUT GET A **MOVE** ON, WILLYA?
I DON'T **LIKE** THIS SET-UP! IT'S TOO **RISKY!**
LISTEN TO THE MAN! TAKES OUR DOUGH, AND THEN STARTS **GRIPIN'!**
SERVE 'IM RIGHT IF WE TOOK OUR **BREAD** BACK--AND **GRABBED** THE STUFF FOR **FREE!**
THEY SAY THE BEST THINGS IN **LIFE** ARE FREE, FELLA--
--INCLUDING A ONE-WAY TICKET TO THE **STATE PEN!**
KRAASH!
HOLY CRUD! IT'S--DAREDEVIL!
I **TOLD** YOU I HEARD SOMETHIN', MAN! I **TOLD** YA!!

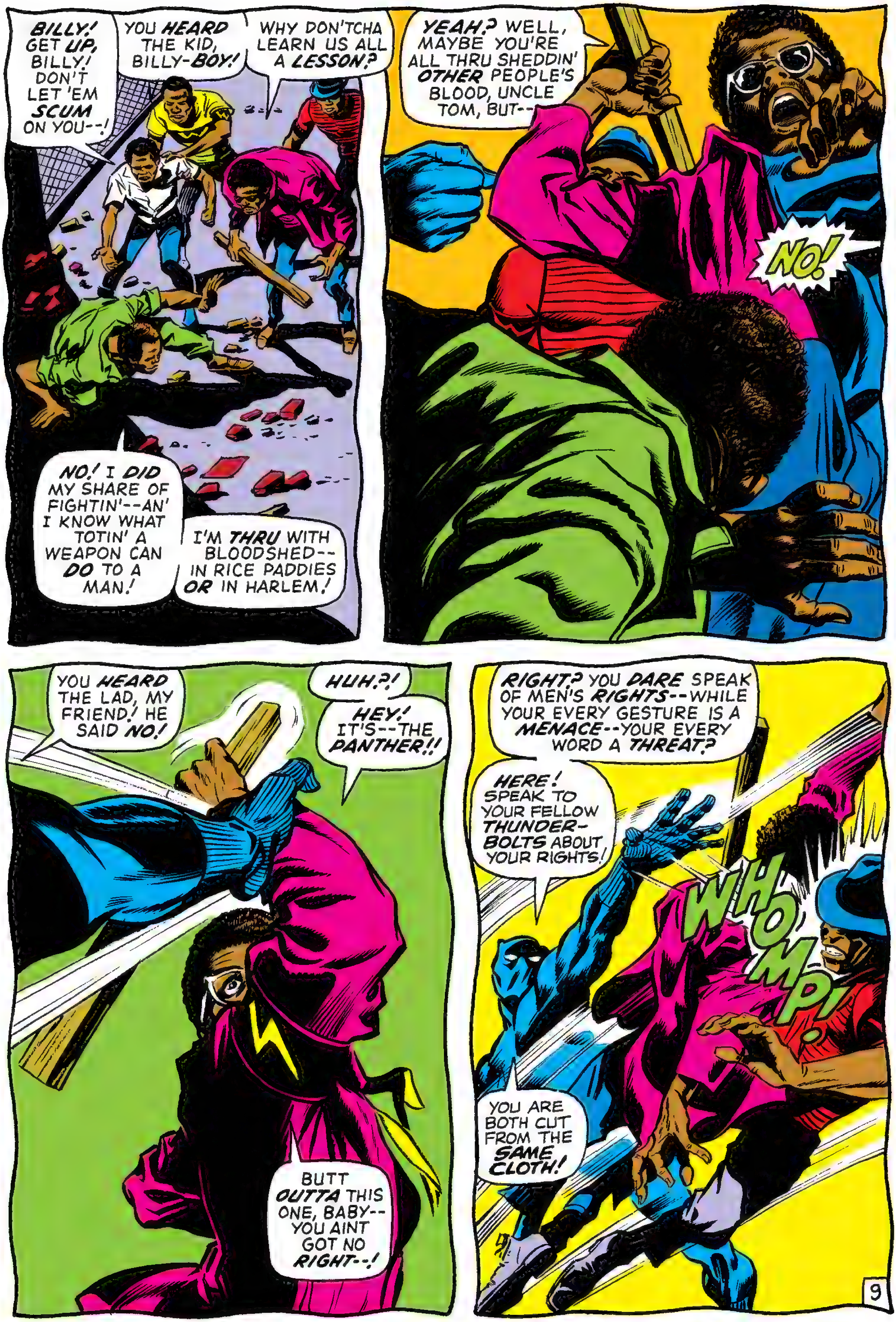

YOU FELLAS WILL HAVE TO COME UP WITH BETTER DIALOGUE THAN *THAT*--OR I'LL DOZE OFF BEFORE I FINISH *BUSTIN'* YOU!
MMMFF!
YOU COULD'VE CAUGHT THEM TWO *AWAY* FROM THE WAREHOUSE, MASKED MAN, AND I WOULDN'T HAVE *CARED!*
STACK 3
BUT I'M *CLEAN* UP TILL NOW--AND MY RECORD'S *STAYIN'* THAT WAY!
WOP!
MISTER, IF THERE'S ANYTHING I HATE WORSE THAN A *CROOK*--
--IT'S A CROOK WITH A BADGE--*ANY* BADGE!
SNEAKING UP *BEHIND* ME, HUH? WELL, DON'T KNOCK YOURSELF OUT ON *MY* ACCOUNT, GUY!
KBONK!
...AND BABY MAKES *THREE!*
BTOK!
THERE! THAT OUGHT TO-- *UH-OH!*
LOOKS LIKE THEY HAD A *LOOKOUT MAN* IN THE TRUCK!
HE'S *TAKING OFF*--LIKE A BAT OUT OF *HELSINKI!*

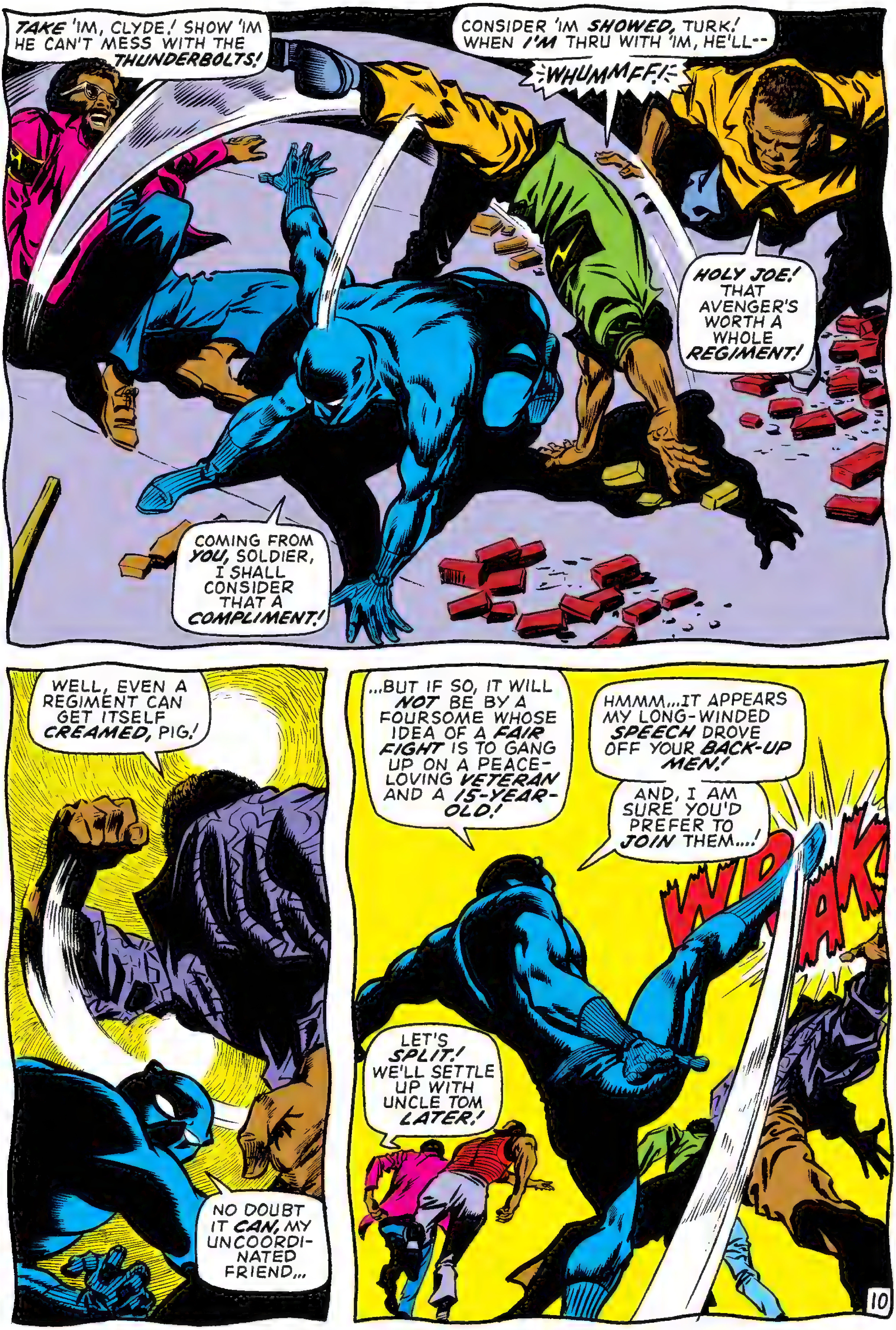

BUT--THE WAY THAT TRUCK'S CAREENING AROUND, THAT HOOD MUST'VE GOT HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE FROM SEARS AND ROEBUCK!
VRUMM
THEN, EVEN AS DAREDEVIL SPEAKS, THE MASSIVE TRUCK SEEMS TO GO COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL--
SKREEEE
--TO CRASH WITH THE FORCE OF A MANY-TONNED SLEDGEHAMMER INTO THE SIDE OF A SOLID BRICK BUILDING--!
KRAAASH!
I CAN STILL DETECT A HEARTBEAT COMING FROM THE WRECK--BUT IT'S A WEAK ONE!
WELL, WHOEVER'S INSIDE THERE, IT'S A SURE BET HE HAD IT COMING!
BILLY--YOU GOTTA HELP ME, BILLY--IT HURTS--!

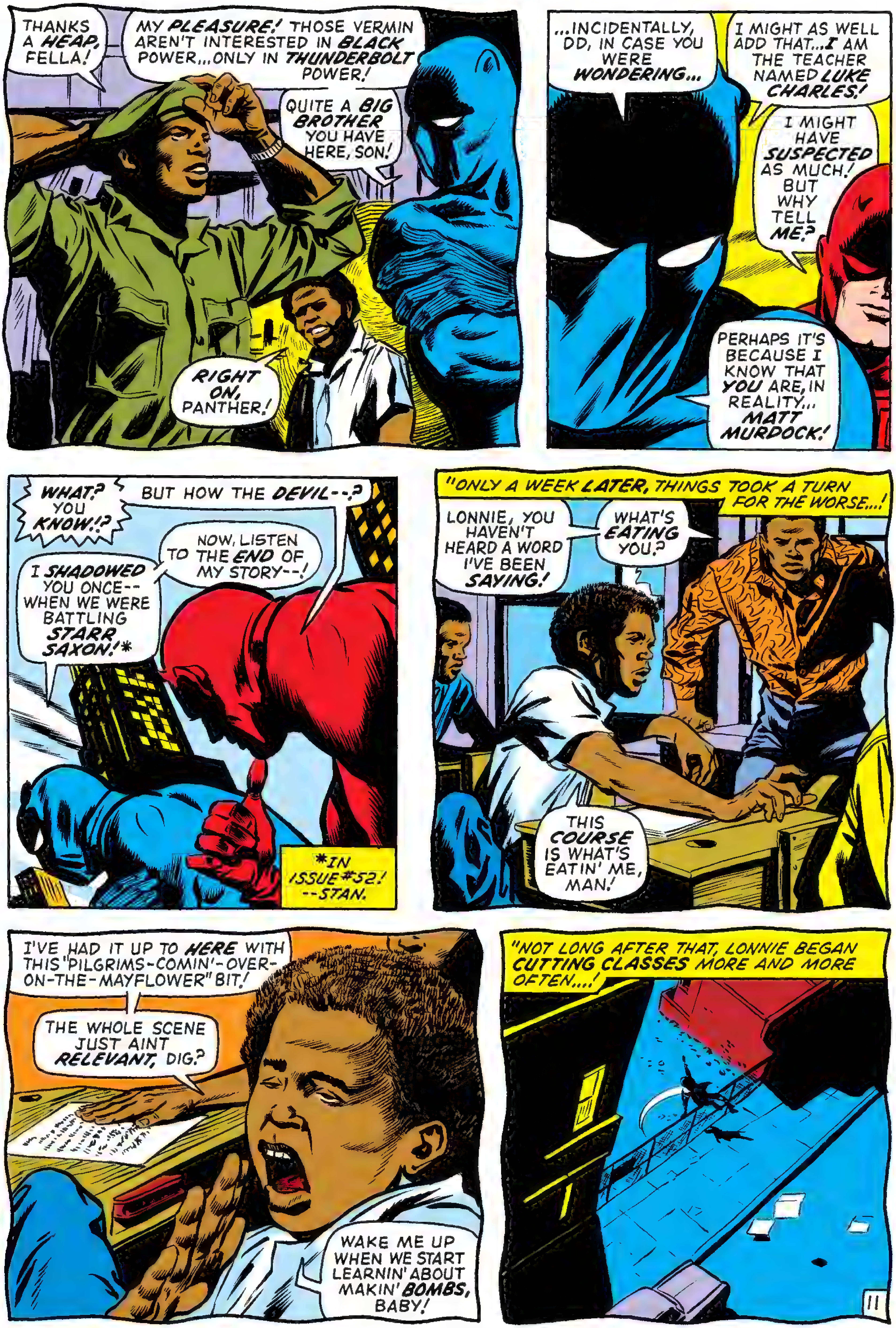

HE'S *PASSED OUT!*
BUT--HE'S JUST A *KID*--CAN'T BE OVER *FIFTEEN!*
HUH? *NOW* WHO THE DEVIL--?
I GUESS YOU CAN'T *SEE* ME SO WELL IN THE *DARK*, DAREDEVIL!
SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN... THE *BLACK PANTHER!*
NOT *LIKELY*, OLD BUDDY! BUT JUST THIS MINUTE, I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS *KID!*
SO DO *I*, DD! IN FACT, HE'S THE REASON I'M *HERE!*
BUT I'LL EXPLAIN *LATER*--AFTER WE'VE GOT THIS LAD SOME *MEDICAL AID!*
THEN, WHEN THE AFRICA-BORN AVENGER HAS HAILED AN OFF-DUTY TAXI BY THE UNIQUE METHOD OF LEAPING LEOPARD-LIKE ONTO ITS TOP...
HOP *ABOARD*, MY FRIEND! NEXT STOP--*CITY HOSPITAL!*
IF ONLY WE'RE NOT ALREADY *TOO LATE!* HIS PULSE IS--SO *WEAK*--!
...SURE WISH I KNEW HOW THE *PANTHER* FITS INTO ALL THIS!
RIGHT THIS *WAY*, INTERN! WE'RE *OVERCROWDED*... NO *DOCTOR* AVAILABLE JUST NOW!
EMERGENCY DESK
BUT WE'LL *GET* ONE... AT THE FIRST AVAILABLE *INSTANT!*
IF A *LAYMAN'S* EDUCATED GUESS MEANS ANYTHING, THAT KID NEEDS BOTH A *DOCTOR*... AND A MINOR *MIRACLE!*
I KNOW A TOP *SURGEON* WE MIGHT CALL--BUT HE DOESN'T COME *CHEAP!*
CALL HIM THEN! THE EXPENSE WILL BE *MINE!*

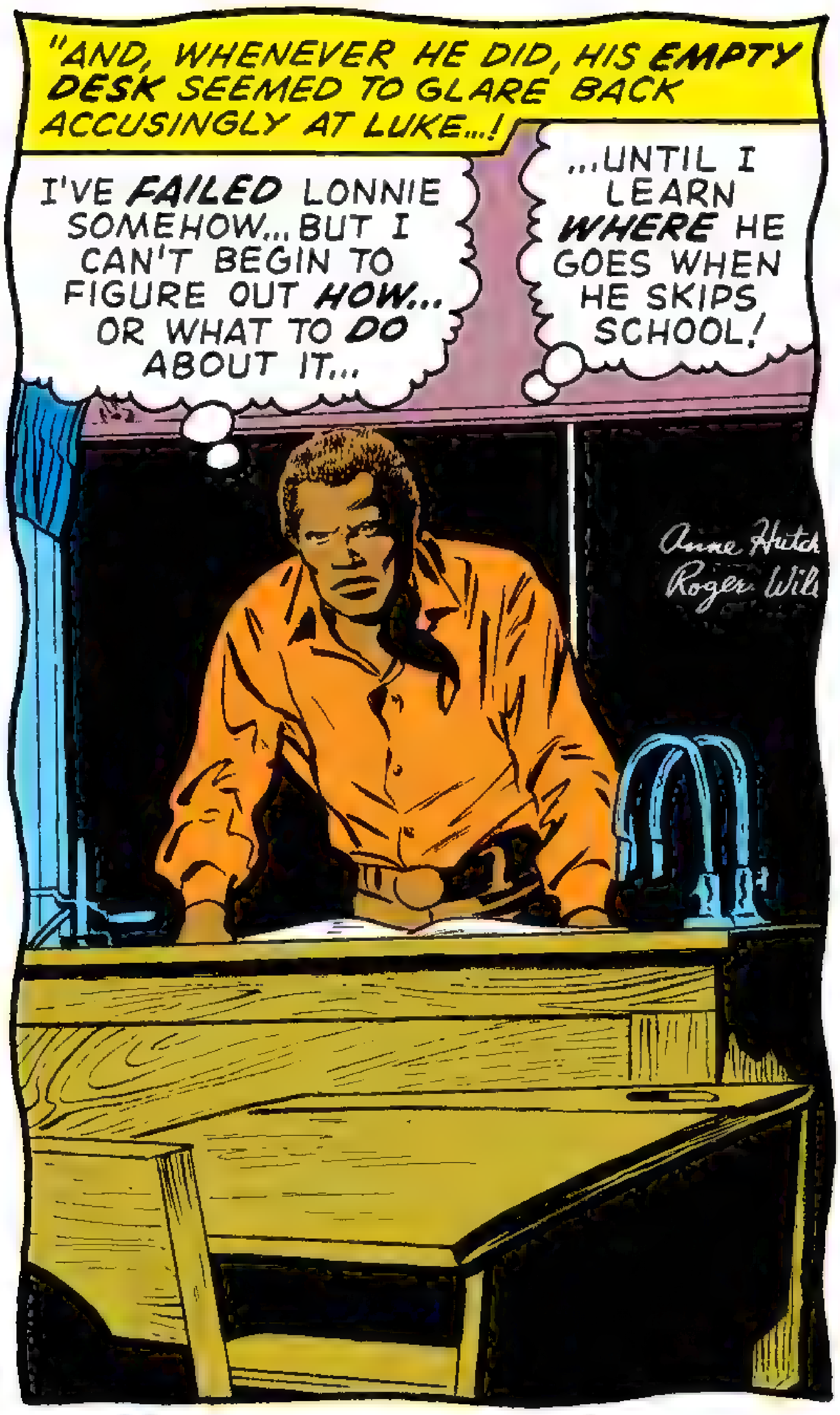

WILL YOU **FEAST** YOUR EVER-LOVIN'S ON THAT TALL, DARK **SOUL BROTHER?**
MAYBE I SHOULD SET MY NURSE'S CAP FOR **HIM...** AND TELL MY **GEORGIE** TO GO TAKE A **747!**
DAREDEVIL'S NOT EXACTLY CHOPPED LIVER HIMSELF-- OR HADN'T YOU **NOTICED?**
PERS
EPHONE
OKAY, GIRL... SO WE MAKE IT A **DOUBLE-RING** CEREMONY!
HELLO... **DR. KRAFT?** THIS IS... **MATT MURDOCK!**
GOT AN **EMERGENCY** CASE DOWN HERE AT **CITY...** A YOUNGSTER HURT IN A **CRASH...** MAY TURN **STATE'S EVIDENCE!**
I KNOW IT'S **LATE,** BUT THE D.A.'S OFFICE WOULD CONSIDER IT A **FAVOR** IF...
YOU **WILL?** AND **HANG** THE **FEE?**
YOU'RE ONE OF **US,** DOC... NOT TO MENTION A WALKING **AD** FOR THE **A.M.A.!**
I'VE GOT TO **RUN,** MYSELF... BUT SOMEBODY'LL BE HERE TO MEET YOU... FELLA BY THE NAME OF **DAREDEVIL...!**
AND, A REMARKABLY SHORT TIME LATER, AS ONE OF NEW YORK'S MOST FAR-FAMED SURGEONS PREPARES FOR A DELICATE OPERATION...
YOU ARE STILL ON **EDGE,** MY FRIEND! WHAT **IS** IT?
A FEW THINGS I'D LIKE TO GET **STRAIGHT,** AVENGER!
WANT TO GO UP ON THE **ROOF** ...GET SOME **AIR?**
...I CAN'T SAY **HOW,** BUT I GOT A **TIP** THAT THAT WAREHOUSE WAS SET FOR A **HIT** TONIGHT!
THE WAY **YOU** SHOWED UP RIGHT ON CUE, I'VE GOT A HUNCH YOU HAD THE **SAME** INFO! MIND TELLING ME **HOW?**
NONE OF IT IS AS IMPORTANT TO EITHER OF US AS THAT BOY'S **LIFE...**
BUT, SINCE TONIGHT HAS ALREADY ALL BUT COST ME MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE **AVENGERS,** I MIGHT AS WELL!
FOR, YOU SEE, I DID **NOT** ARRIVE ON CUE TONIGHT...
OR ELSE THAT BOY WOULD NOT BE **LYING** IN THERE RIGHT NOW... HIS **LIFE** IN THE BALANCE!

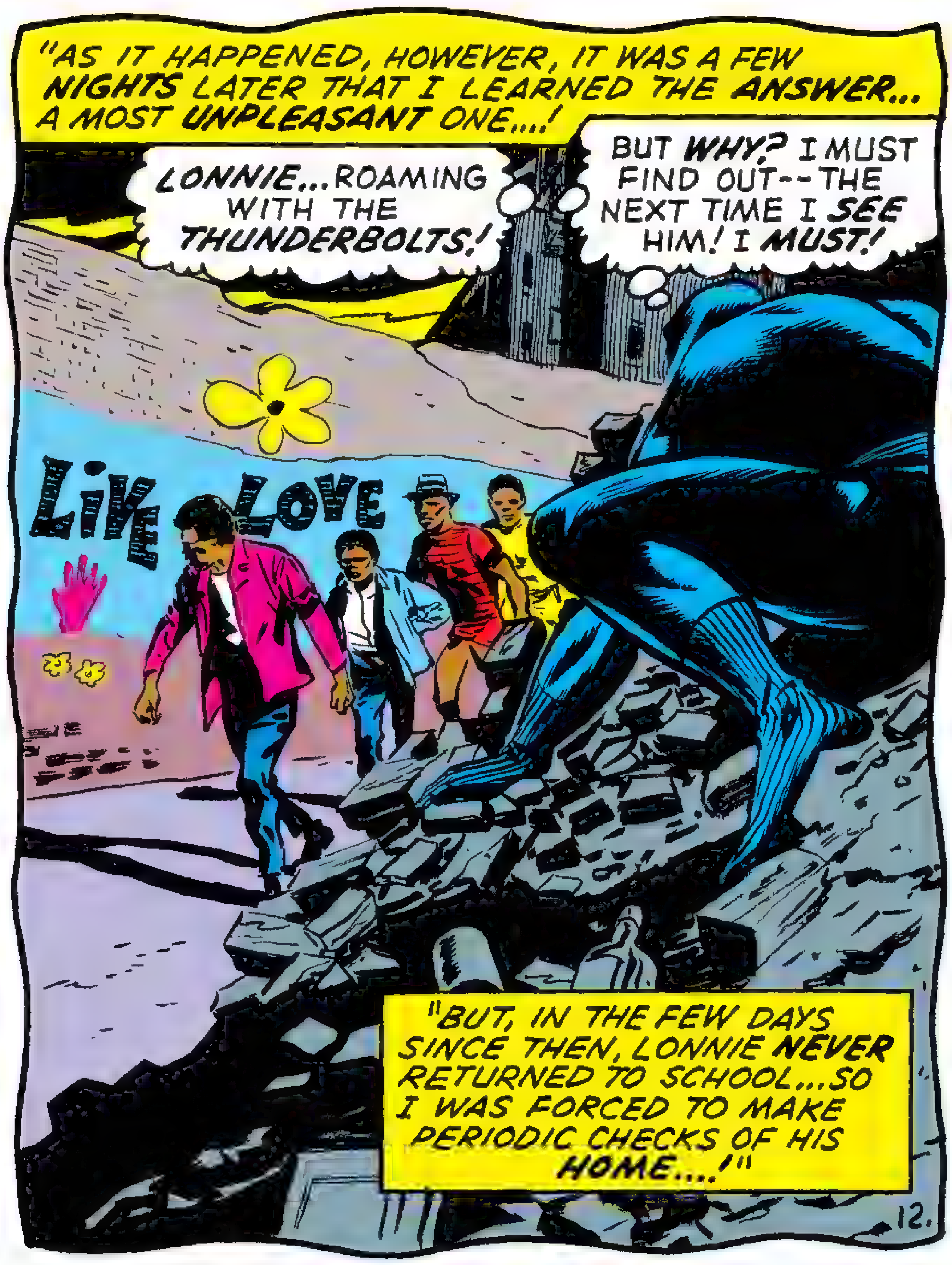

NO, I MOST DEFINITELY DID *NOT* ARRIVE ON CUE!
MY CUE WAS *WEEKS* AGO... AND, MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME, I *MISSED* IT!
"FOR, THE YOUTH ON THAT OPERATING TABLE IS NAMED *LONNIE CARVER*... AND HE USED TO BE THE BRIGHTEST STUDENT OF A *TEACHER* FRIEND OF MINE... ONE *LUKE CHARLES*...!
HEY, LONNIE! WHY THE WALL-TO-WALL *SMILE?*
DON'T TELL ME *JAMES BROWN'S* NEW 45 JUST HIT *#1*!?
THAT AINT EVEN *CLOSE,* TEACH!
I JUST GOT THE WORD MY BROTHER *BILLY'S* COMIN' HOME FROM THE BIG BAD *WAR*--AND I'M *TRIPPIN'!*
HISTORY OF THE [illegible]K
"THE *BLACK PANTHER* ENTERS THE PICTURE SOME NIGHTS LATER... AS THE SOUND OF *VIOLENT ARGUING* DISTURBS A BRICK-STREWN PLAYGROUND...!
WELL, HOW *ABOUT* IT, CARVER? WE COULD *USE* A VET LIKE YOU!
SHOVE OFF, MAN! I DON'T DIG THE WAR ANY MORE THAN THE *NEXT* BROTHER...
BUT I FIGURE THERE'S *BETTER* WAYS TO PROTEST IT THAN TO JOIN A *HATE-CREW* LIKE YOU *"THUNDERBOLTS"!*
NOBODY WITH *HALF A BRAIN* IS GONNA FALL FOR THAT *"WHITE MAN'S WAR"* JAZZ YOU GUYS PREACH!
YEAH? WELL, WE AINT HEARD FROM *LONNIE,* YET? WHAT *SAY,* MAN?
I STAND WITH *BILLY!*
NOW YOU'VE HEARD FROM HIM!
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST *FLAKE OFF,* SO THAT--
UNNHHH!
WOK!
YOU AINT *WITH* US, CARVER--SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE *AGAINST* US!
AND HERE'S WHAT THE *THUNDERBOLTS* DO TO AN *UNCLE TOM!*

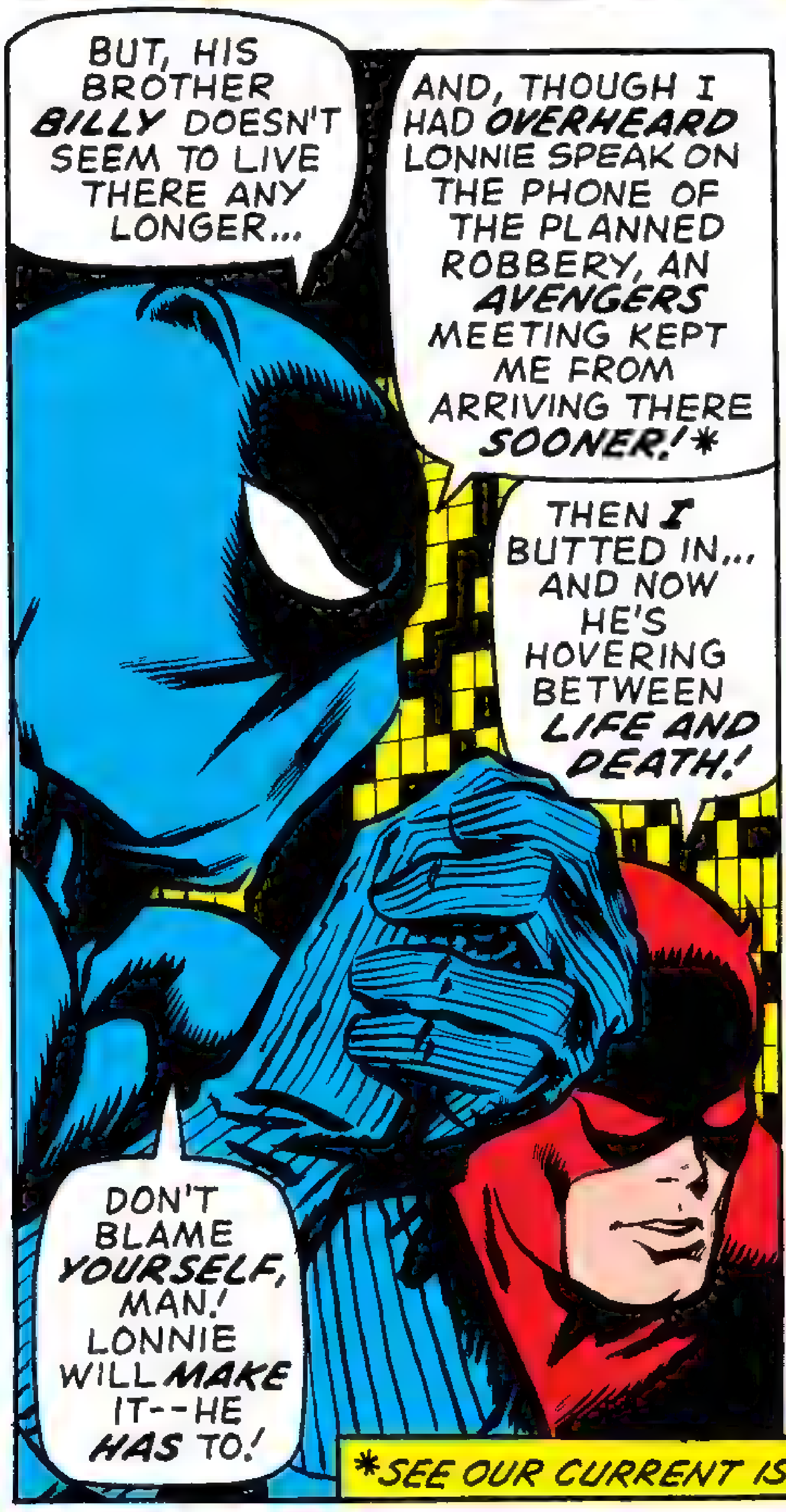

BILLY! GET UP, BILLY! DON'T LET 'EM SCUM ON YOU--!
YOU HEARD THE KID, BILLY-BOY!
WHY DON'TCHA LEARN US ALL A LESSON?
NO! I DID MY SHARE OF FIGHTIN'--AN' I KNOW WHAT TOTIN' A WEAPON CAN DO TO A MAN!
I'M THRU WITH BLOODSHED--IN RICE PADDIES OR IN HARLEM!
YEAH? WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE ALL THRU SHEDDIN' OTHER PEOPLE'S BLOOD, UNCLE TOM, BUT--
NO!
YOU HEARD THE LAD, MY FRIEND! HE SAID NO!
HUH?!
HEY! IT'S--THE PANTHER!!
BUTT OUTTA THIS ONE, BABY--YOU AINT GOT NO RIGHT--!
RIGHT? YOU DARE SPEAK OF MEN'S RIGHTS--WHILE YOUR EVERY GESTURE IS A MENACE--YOUR EVERY WORD A THREAT?
HERE! SPEAK TO YOUR FELLOW THUNDER-BOLTS ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS!
WHOMP!
YOU ARE BOTH CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH!

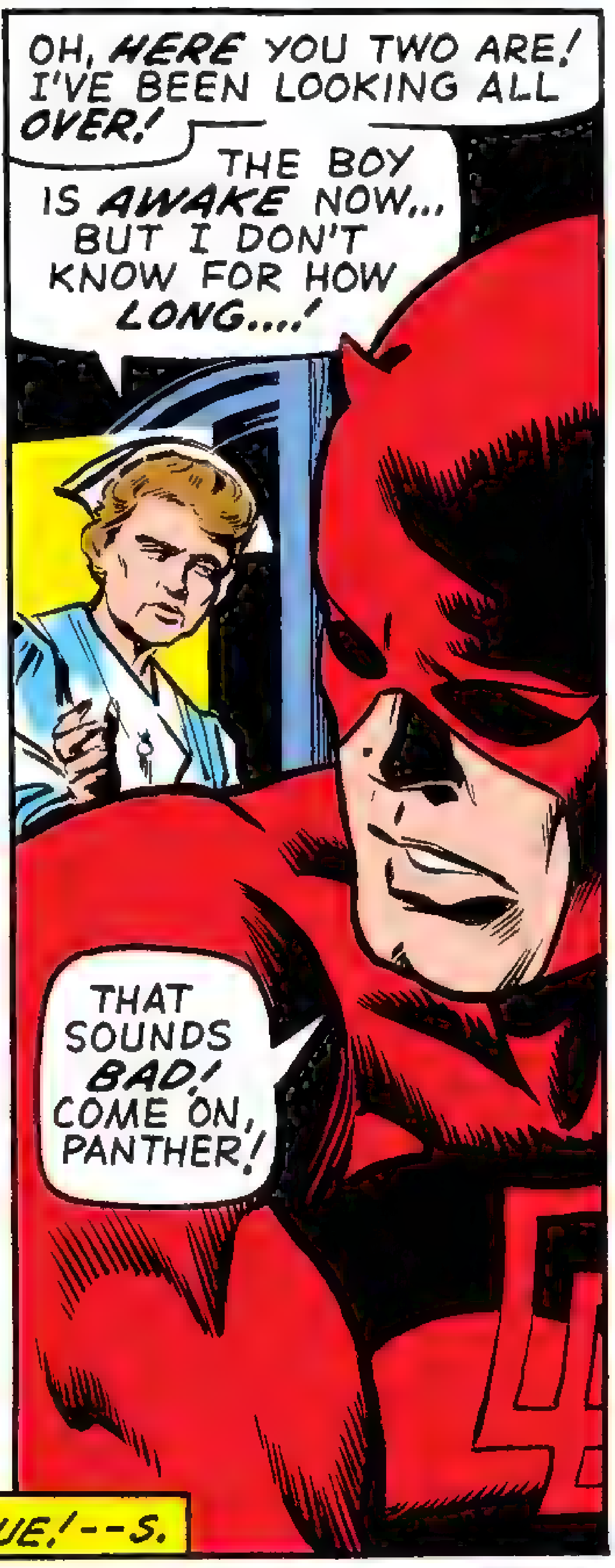

TAKE 'IM, CLYDE! SHOW 'IM HE CAN'T MESS WITH THE THUNDERBOLTS!
CONSIDER 'IM SHOWED, TURK! WHEN I'M THRU WITH 'IM, HE'LL--
WHUMMFF!
HOLY JOE! THAT AVENGER'S WORTH A WHOLE REGIMENT!
COMING FROM YOU, SOLDIER, I SHALL CONSIDER THAT A COMPLIMENT!
WELL, EVEN A REGIMENT CAN GET ITSELF CREAMED, PIG!
NO DOUBT IT CAN, MY UNCOORDINATED FRIEND...
...BUT IF SO, IT WILL NOT BE BY A FOURSOME WHOSE IDEA OF A FAIR FIGHT IS TO GANG UP ON A PEACE-LOVING VETERAN AND A 15-YEAR-OLD!
HMMM...IT APPEARS MY LONG-WINDED SPEECH DROVE OFF YOUR BACK-UP MEN!
AND, I AM SURE YOU'D PREFER TO JOIN THEM...!
WRAK!
LET'S SPLIT! WE'LL SETTLE UP WITH UNCLE TOM LATER!

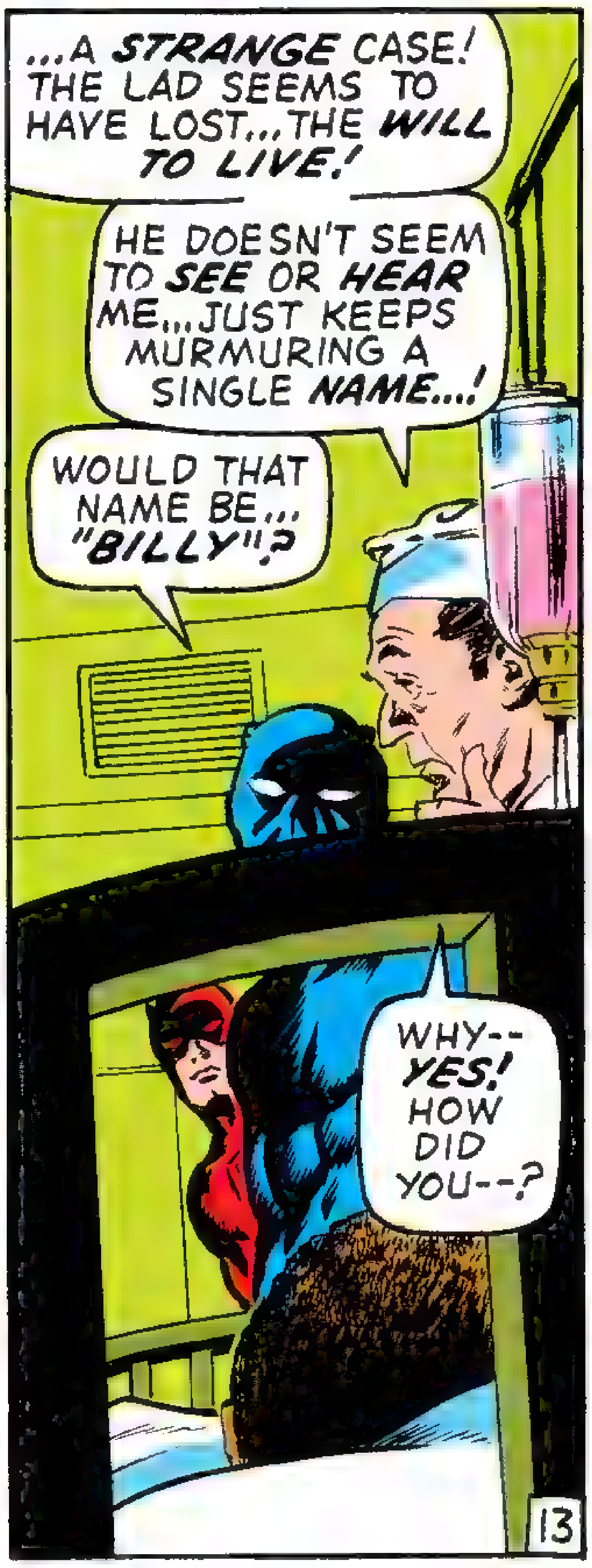

THANKS A *HEAP,* FELLA!
MY *PLEASURE!* THOSE VERMIN AREN'T INTERESTED IN *BLACK* POWER...ONLY IN *THUNDERBOLT* POWER!
QUITE A *BIG BROTHER* YOU HAVE HERE, SON!
RIGHT ON, PANTHER!
...INCIDENTALLY, DD, IN CASE YOU WERE *WONDERING...*
I MIGHT AS WELL ADD THAT...*I* AM THE TEACHER NAMED *LUKE CHARLES!*
I MIGHT HAVE *SUSPECTED* AS MUCH! BUT WHY TELL *ME?*
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW THAT *YOU* ARE, IN REALITY... *MATT MURDOCK!*
WHAT? YOU KNOW!?
BUT HOW THE *DEVIL*--?
NOW, LISTEN TO THE *END* OF MY STORY--!
I *SHADOWED* YOU ONCE-- WHEN WE WERE BATTLING *STARR SAXON!**
*IN ISSUE #52! --STAN.
"ONLY A WEEK *LATER,* THINGS TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE...!
LONNIE, YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I'VE BEEN *SAYING!*
WHAT'S *EATING* YOU?
THIS *COURSE* IS WHAT'S EATIN' ME, MAN!
I'VE HAD IT UP TO *HERE* WITH THIS "PILGRIMS-COMIN'-OVER-ON-THE-MAYFLOWER" BIT!
THE WHOLE SCENE JUST AINT *RELEVANT,* DIG?
WAKE ME UP WHEN WE START LEARNIN' ABOUT MAKIN' *BOMBS,* BABY!
"NOT LONG AFTER THAT, LONNIE BEGAN *CUTTING CLASSES* MORE AND MORE OFTEN...!

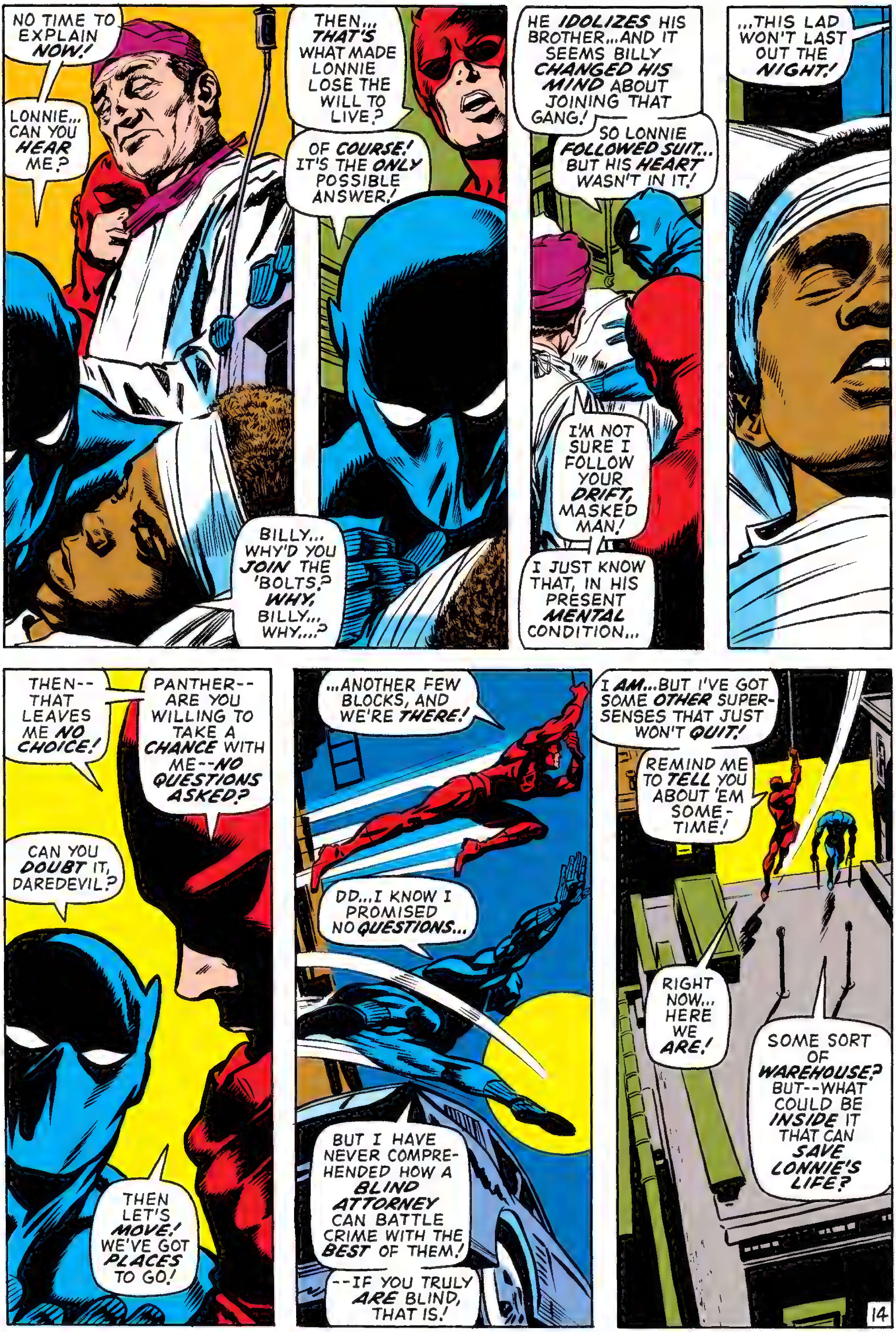

"AND, WHENEVER HE DID, HIS EMPTY DESK SEEMED TO GLARE BACK ACCUSINGLY AT LUKE...!
I'VE FAILED LONNIE SOMEHOW...BUT I CAN'T BEGIN TO FIGURE OUT HOW... OR WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT...
...UNTIL I LEARN WHERE HE GOES WHEN HE SKIPS SCHOOL!
Anne Hutch
Roger Wil

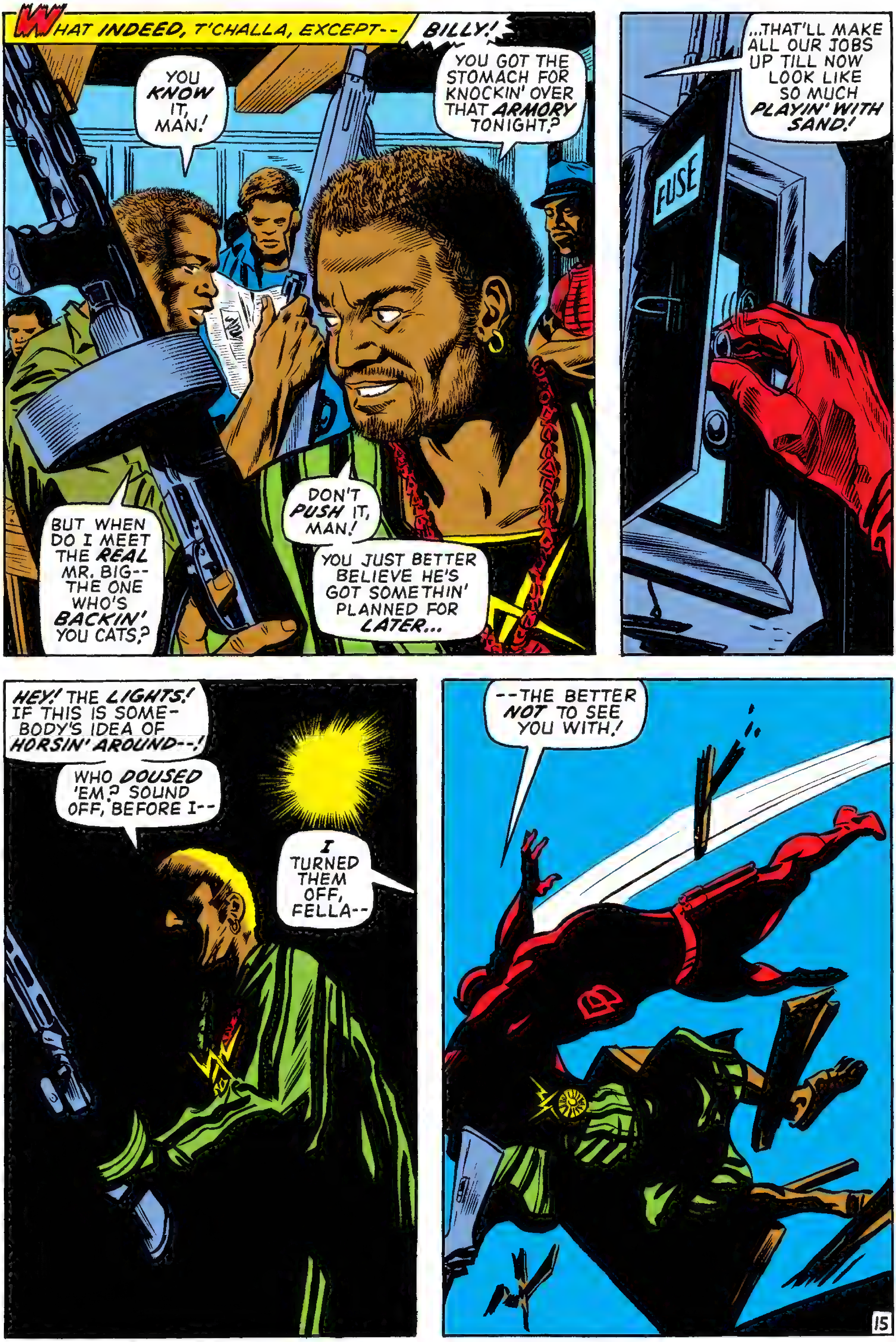

"AS IT HAPPENED, HOWEVER, IT WAS A FEW NIGHTS LATER THAT I LEARNED THE ANSWER... A MOST UNPLEASANT ONE...!
LONNIE...ROAMING WITH THE THUNDERBOLTS!
BUT WHY? I MUST FIND OUT--THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM! I MUST!
LIVE LOVE
"BUT, IN THE FEW DAYS SINCE THEN, LONNIE NEVER RETURNED TO SCHOOL...SO I WAS FORCED TO MAKE PERIODIC CHECKS OF HIS HOME....!"

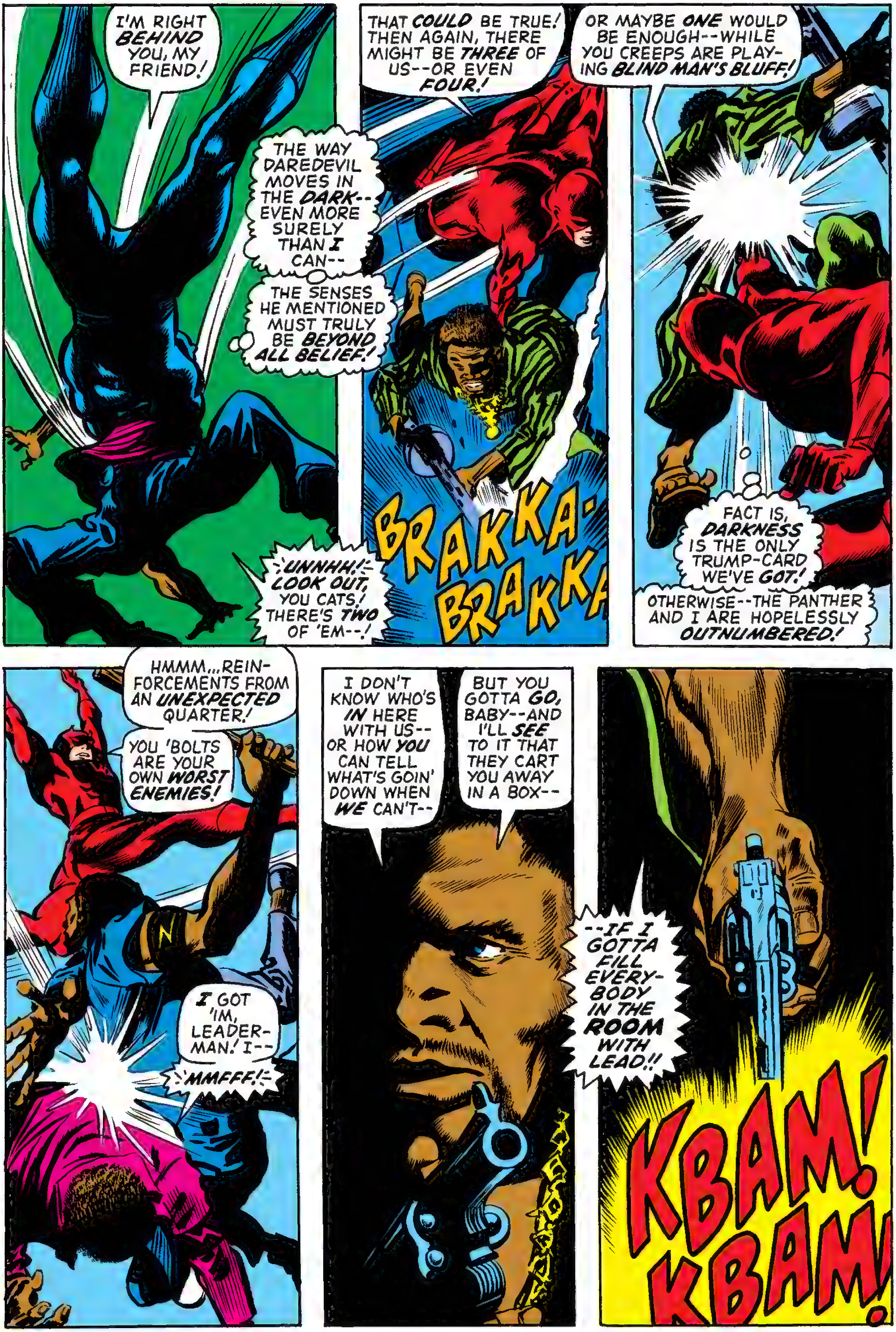

BUT, HIS BROTHER BILLY DOESN'T SEEM TO LIVE THERE ANY LONGER...
AND, THOUGH I HAD OVERHEARD LONNIE SPEAK ON THE PHONE OF THE PLANNED ROBBERY, AN AVENGERS MEETING KEPT ME FROM ARRIVING THERE SOONER!*
THEN I BUTTED IN... AND NOW HE'S HOVERING BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, MAN! LONNIE WILL MAKE IT--HE HAS TO!
*SEE OUR CURRENT ISSUE!--S.

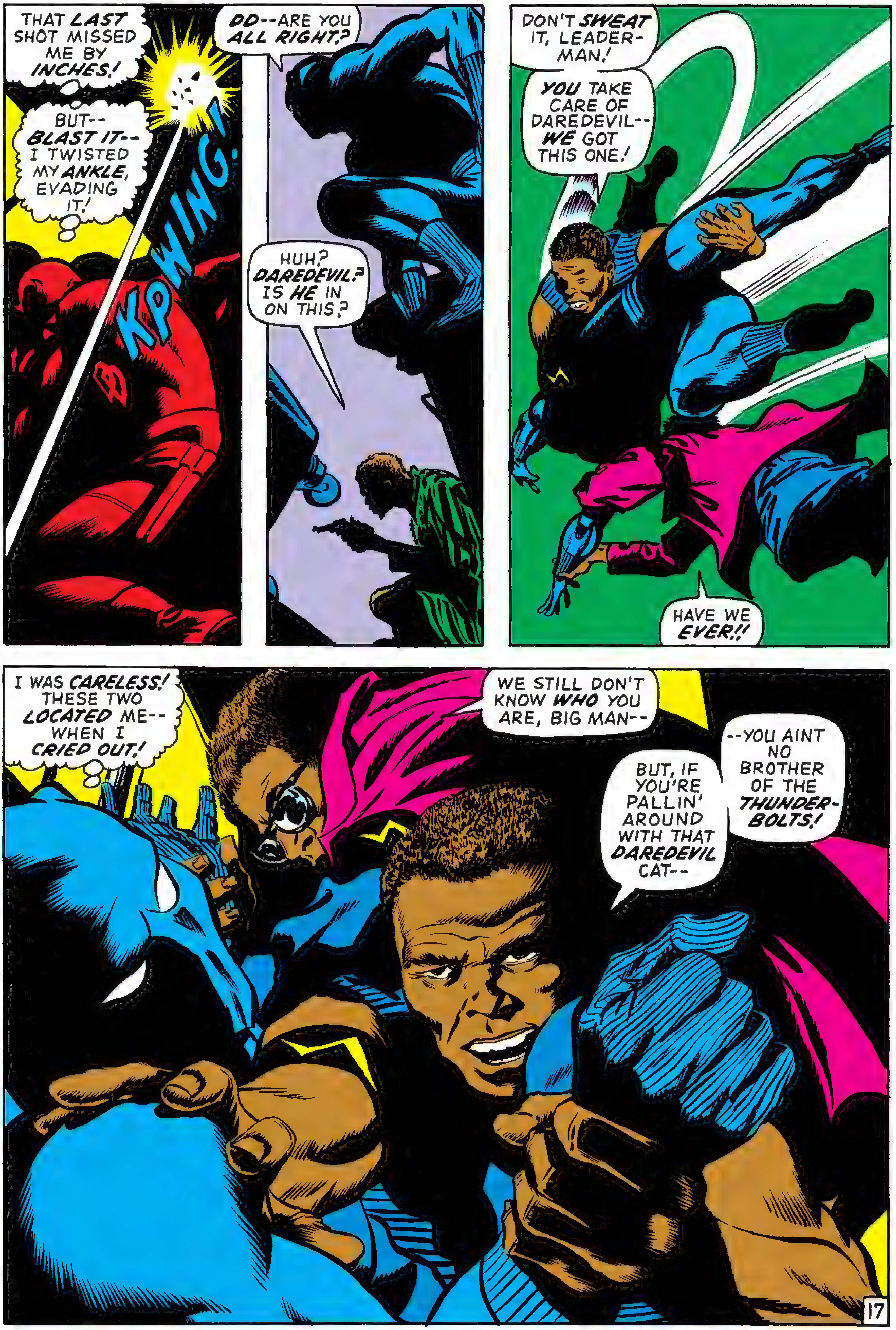

OH, HERE YOU TWO ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER!
THE BOY IS AWAKE NOW... BUT I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG....!
THAT SOUNDS BAD! COME ON, PANTHER!

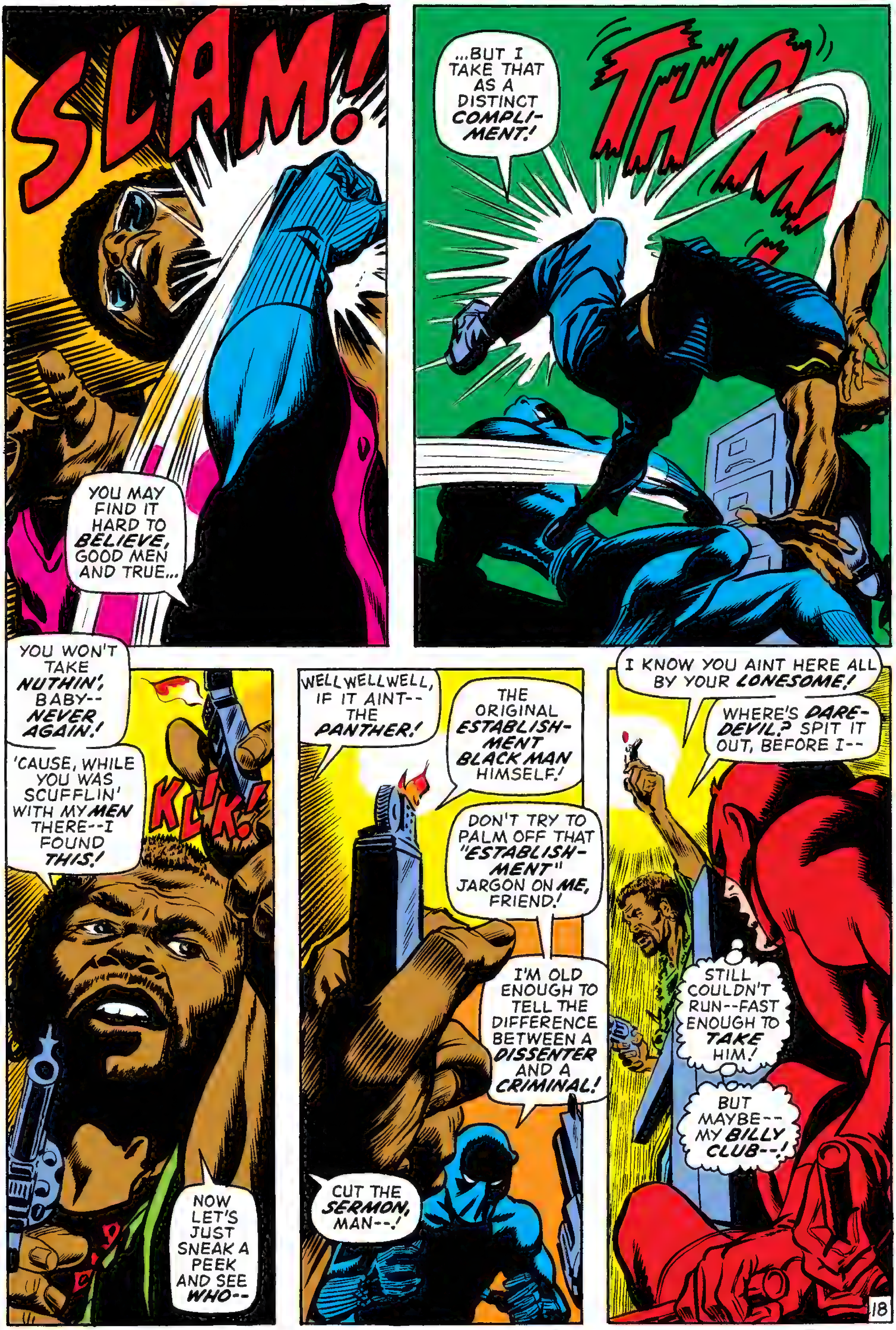

...A STRANGE CASE! THE LAD SEEMS TO HAVE LOST...THE WILL TO LIVE!
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO SEE OR HEAR ME...JUST KEEPS MURMURING A SINGLE NAME...!
WOULD THAT NAME BE... "BILLY"?
WHY--YES! HOW DID YOU--?

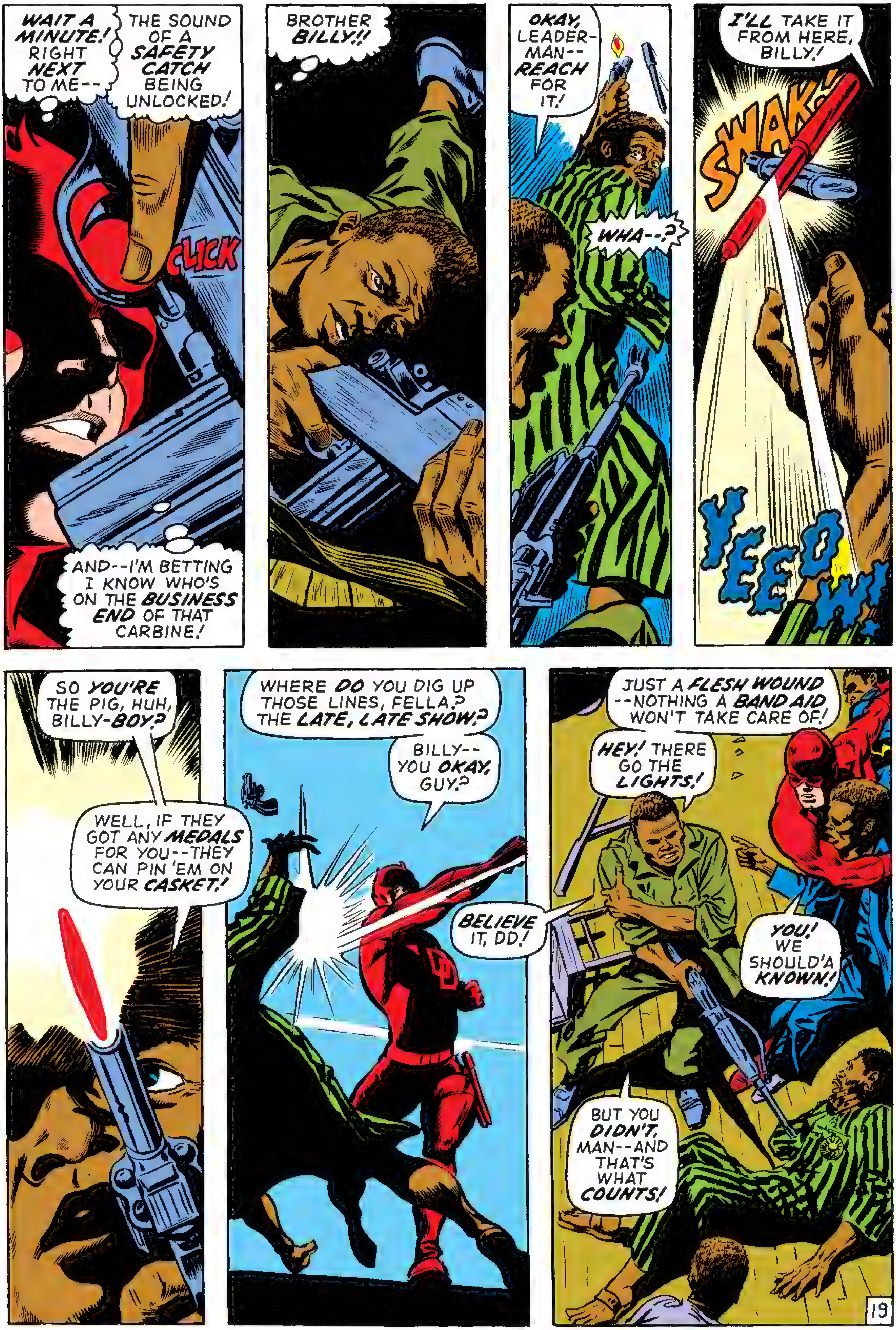

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW!
LONNIE... CAN YOU HEAR ME?
BILLY... WHY'D YOU JOIN THE 'BOLTS? WHY, BILLY... WHY...?
THEN... THAT'S WHAT MADE LONNIE LOSE THE WILL TO LIVE?
OF COURSE! IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER!
HE IDOLIZES HIS BROTHER...AND IT SEEMS BILLY CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT JOINING THAT GANG!
SO LONNIE FOLLOWED SUIT... BUT HIS HEART WASN'T IN IT!
I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW YOUR DRIFT, MASKED MAN!
I JUST KNOW THAT, IN HIS PRESENT MENTAL CONDITION...
...THIS LAD WON'T LAST OUT THE NIGHT!
THEN--THAT LEAVES ME NO CHOICE!
PANTHER--ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE WITH ME--NO QUESTIONS ASKED?
CAN YOU DOUBT IT, DAREDEVIL?
THEN LET'S MOVE! WE'VE GOT PLACES TO GO!
...ANOTHER FEW BLOCKS, AND WE'RE THERE!
DD...I KNOW I PROMISED NO QUESTIONS...
BUT I HAVE NEVER COMPREHENDED HOW A BLIND ATTORNEY CAN BATTLE CRIME WITH THE BEST OF THEM!
--IF YOU TRULY ARE BLIND, THAT IS!
I AM...BUT I'VE GOT SOME OTHER SUPER-SENSES THAT JUST WON'T QUIT!
REMIND ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT 'EM SOME-TIME!
RIGHT NOW... HERE WE ARE!
SOME SORT OF WAREHOUSE? BUT--WHAT COULD BE INSIDE IT THAT CAN SAVE LONNIE'S LIFE?

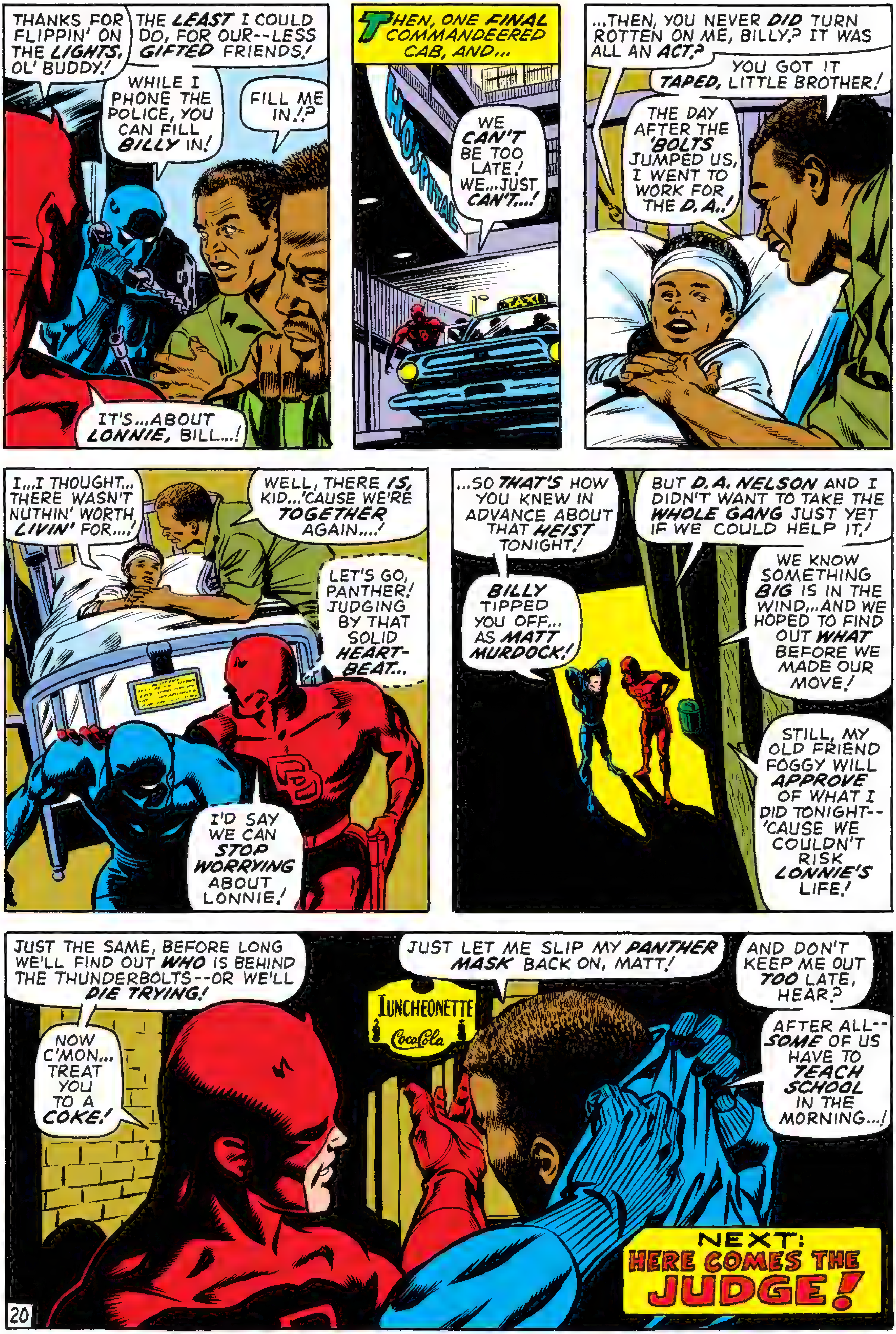

WHAT INDEED, T'CHALLA, EXCEPT--
BILLY!
YOU GOT THE STOMACH FOR KNOCKIN' OVER THAT ARMORY TONIGHT?
YOU KNOW IT, MAN!
BUT WHEN DO I MEET THE REAL MR. BIG--THE ONE WHO'S BACKIN' YOU CATS?
DON'T PUSH IT, MAN!
YOU JUST BETTER BELIEVE HE'S GOT SOMETHIN' PLANNED FOR LATER...
...THAT'LL MAKE ALL OUR JOBS UP TILL NOW LOOK LIKE SO MUCH PLAYIN' WITH SAND!
FUSE
HEY! THE LIGHTS! IF THIS IS SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF HORSIN' AROUND--!
WHO DOUSED 'EM? SOUND OFF, BEFORE I--
I TURNED THEM OFF, FELLA--
--THE BETTER NOT TO SEE YOU WITH!


I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, MY FRIEND!
THE WAY DAREDEVIL MOVES IN THE DARK-- EVEN MORE SURELY THAN I CAN--
THE SENSES HE MENTIONED MUST TRULY BE BEYOND ALL BELIEF!
UNNHH! LOOK OUT, YOU CATS! THERE'S TWO OF 'EM--!
THAT COULD BE TRUE! THEN AGAIN, THERE MIGHT BE THREE OF US--OR EVEN FOUR!
BRAKKA-BRAKKA
OR MAYBE ONE WOULD BE ENOUGH--WHILE YOU CREEPS ARE PLAYING BLIND MAN'S BLUFF!
FACT IS, DARKNESS IS THE ONLY TRUMP-CARD WE'VE GOT!
OTHERWISE--THE PANTHER AND I ARE HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED!
HMMM...REINFORCEMENTS FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER!
YOU 'BOLTS ARE YOUR OWN WORST ENEMIES!
I GOT 'IM, LEADER-MAN! I--
MMFFF!
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S IN HERE WITH US-- OR HOW YOU CAN TELL WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN WHEN WE CAN'T--
BUT YOU GOTTA GO, BABY--AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY CART YOU AWAY IN A BOX--
--IF I GOTTA FILL EVERYBODY IN THE ROOM WITH LEAD!!
KBAM! KBAM!


THAT *LAST* SHOT MISSED ME BY *INCHES!*
BUT-- *BLAST IT--* I TWISTED MY *ANKLE,* EVADING IT!
KPWING!
DD--ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*
HUH? *DAREDEVIL?* IS *HE* IN ON THIS?
DON'T *SWEAT* IT, LEADER-MAN!
YOU TAKE CARE OF DAREDEVIL-- *WE* GOT THIS ONE!
HAVE WE *EVER!!*
I WAS *CARELESS!* THESE TWO *LOCATED* ME-- WHEN I *CRIED OUT!*
WE STILL DON'T KNOW *WHO* YOU ARE, BIG MAN--
BUT, IF YOU'RE PALLIN' AROUND WITH THAT *DAREDEVIL* CAT--
--YOU AINT NO BROTHER OF THE *THUNDER-BOLTS!*


SLAM!
YOU MAY FIND IT HARD TO *BELIEVE*, GOOD MEN AND TRUE...
...BUT I TAKE THAT AS A DISTINCT *COMPLIMENT!*
THOM
YOU WON'T TAKE *NUTHIN'*, BABY-- *NEVER AGAIN!*
'CAUSE, WHILE YOU WAS SCUFFLIN' WITH MY *MEN* THERE--I FOUND *THIS!*
KLIK!
NOW LET'S JUST SNEAK A PEEK AND SEE *WHO*--
WELL WELL WELL, IF IT AINT-- THE *PANTHER!*
THE ORIGINAL *ESTABLISHMENT BLACK MAN* HIMSELF!
DON'T TRY TO PALM OFF THAT "*ESTABLISHMENT*" JARGON ON *ME*, FRIEND!
I'M OLD ENOUGH TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A *DISSENTER* AND A *CRIMINAL!*
CUT THE *SERMON*, MAN--!
I KNOW YOU AINT HERE ALL BY YOUR *LONESOME!*
WHERE'S *DAREDEVIL?* SPIT IT OUT, BEFORE I--
STILL COULDN'T RUN--FAST ENOUGH TO *TAKE* HIM!
BUT MAYBE-- MY *BILLY CLUB*--!


WAIT A MINUTE! RIGHT NEXT TO ME--
THE SOUND OF A SAFETY CATCH BEING UNLOCKED!
CLICK
AND--I'M BETTING I KNOW WHO'S ON THE BUSINESS END OF THAT CARBINE!
BROTHER BILLY!!
OKAY, LEADER-MAN--REACH FOR IT!
WHA--?
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, BILLY!
SWAK!
YEEOW!
SO YOU'RE THE PIG, HUH, BILLY-BOY?
WELL, IF THEY GOT ANY MEDALS FOR YOU--THEY CAN PIN 'EM ON YOUR CASKET!
WHERE DO YOU DIG UP THOSE LINES, FELLA? THE LATE, LATE SHOW?
BILLY--YOU OKAY, GUY?
BELIEVE IT, DD!
JUST A FLESH WOUND--NOTHING A BAND AID WON'T TAKE CARE OF!
HEY! THERE GO THE LIGHTS!
YOU! WE SHOULD'A KNOWN!
BUT YOU DIDN'T, MAN--AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!


THANKS FOR FLIPPIN' ON THE *LIGHTS*, OL' BUDDY!
THE *LEAST* I COULD DO, FOR OUR--LESS *GIFTED* FRIENDS!
WHILE I PHONE THE POLICE, YOU CAN FILL *BILLY* IN!
FILL ME IN!?
IT'S...ABOUT *LONNIE*, BILL...!
THEN, ONE *FINAL* COMMANDEERED CAB, AND...
HOSPITAL
TAXI
WE *CAN'T* BE TOO LATE! WE...JUST *CAN'T*...!
...THEN, YOU NEVER *DID* TURN ROTTEN ON ME, BILLY? IT WAS ALL AN *ACT*?
YOU GOT IT *TAPED*, LITTLE BROTHER!
THE DAY AFTER THE *'BOLTS* JUMPED US, I WENT TO WORK FOR THE *D.A.*!
I...I THOUGHT... THERE WASN'T NUTHIN' WORTH *LIVIN'* FOR...!
WELL, THERE *IS*, KID...'CAUSE WE'RE *TOGETHER* AGAIN...!
LET'S GO, PANTHER! JUDGING BY THAT SOLID *HEART-BEAT*...
I'D SAY WE CAN *STOP WORRYING* ABOUT LONNIE!
...SO *THAT'S* HOW YOU KNEW IN ADVANCE ABOUT THAT *HEIST* TONIGHT!
BILLY TIPPED YOU OFF... AS *MATT MURDOCK*!
BUT *D.A. NELSON* AND I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THE *WHOLE GANG* JUST YET IF WE COULD HELP IT!
WE KNOW SOMETHING *BIG* IS IN THE WIND...AND WE HOPED TO FIND OUT *WHAT* BEFORE WE MADE OUR MOVE!
STILL, MY OLD FRIEND FOGGY WILL *APPROVE* OF WHAT I DID TONIGHT-- 'CAUSE WE COULDN'T RISK *LONNIE'S* LIFE!
JUST THE SAME, BEFORE LONG WE'LL FIND OUT *WHO* IS BEHIND THE THUNDERBOLTS--OR WE'LL *DIE TRYING!*
NOW C'MON... TREAT YOU TO A *COKE!*
LUNCHEONETTE
Coca-Cola
JUST LET ME SLIP MY *PANTHER MASK* BACK ON, MATT!
AND DON'T KEEP ME OUT *TOO* LATE, HEAR?
AFTER ALL-- *SOME* OF US HAVE TO *TEACH SCHOOL* IN THE MORNING...!
NEXT: HERE COMES THE JUDGE!

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
70
NOV
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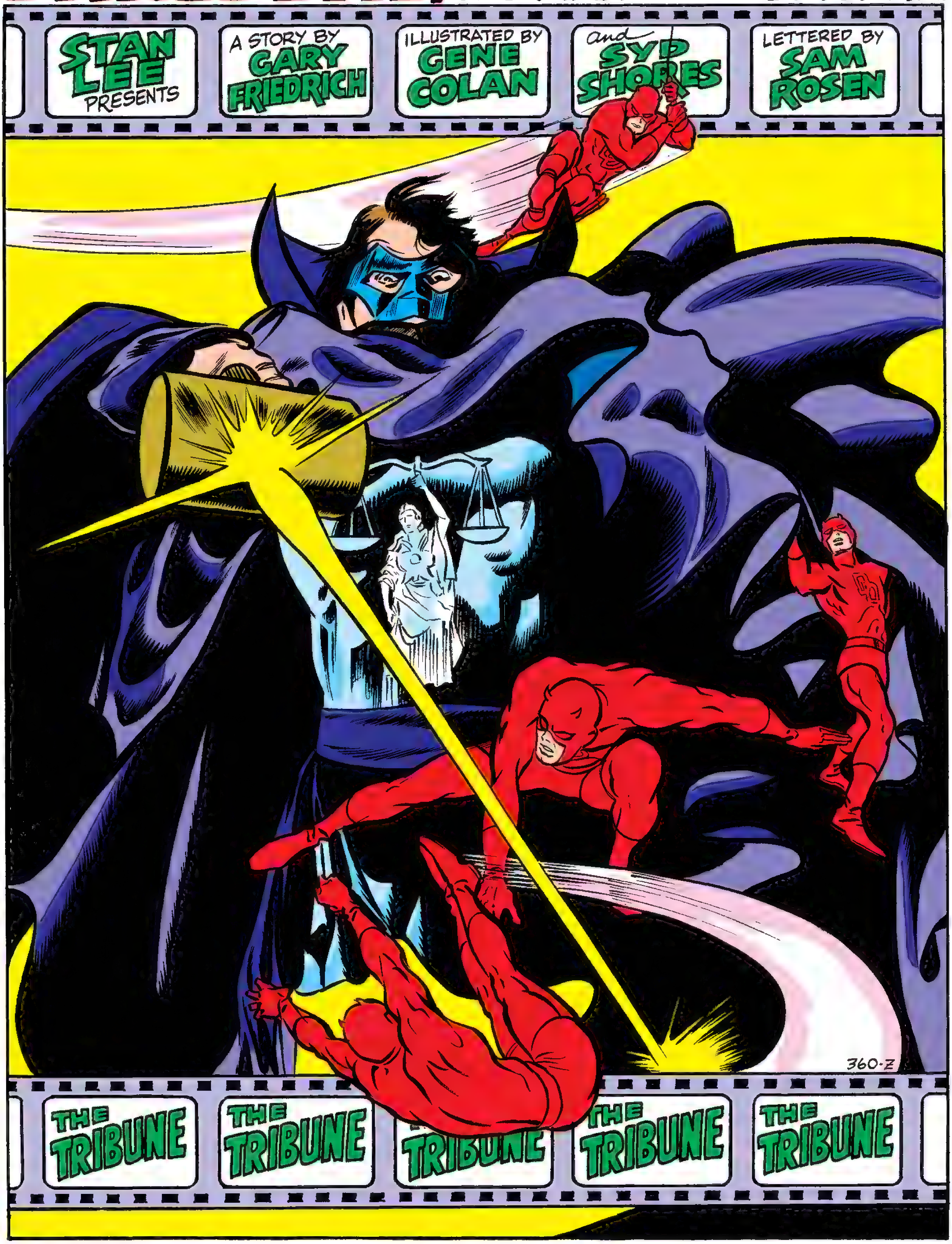
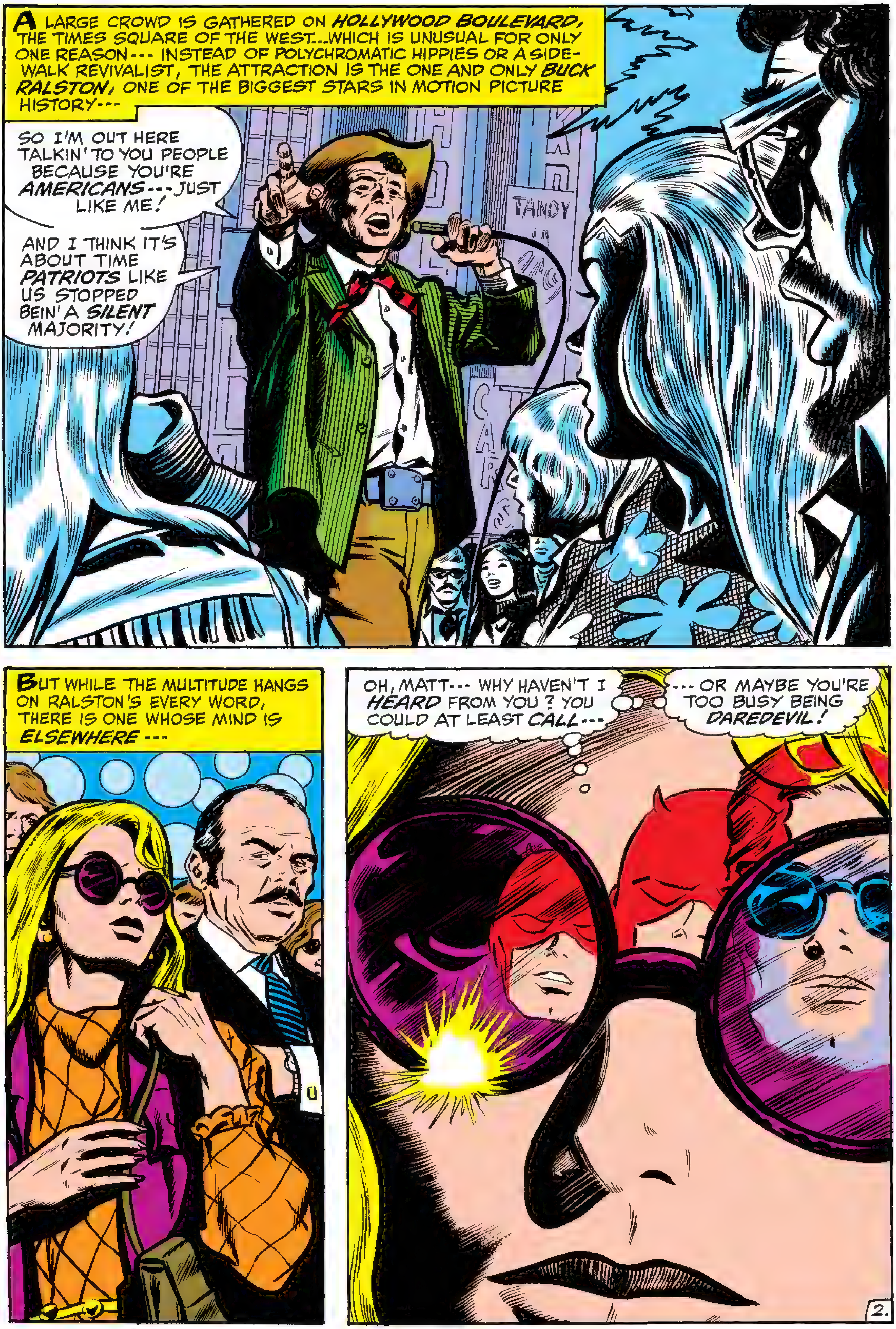
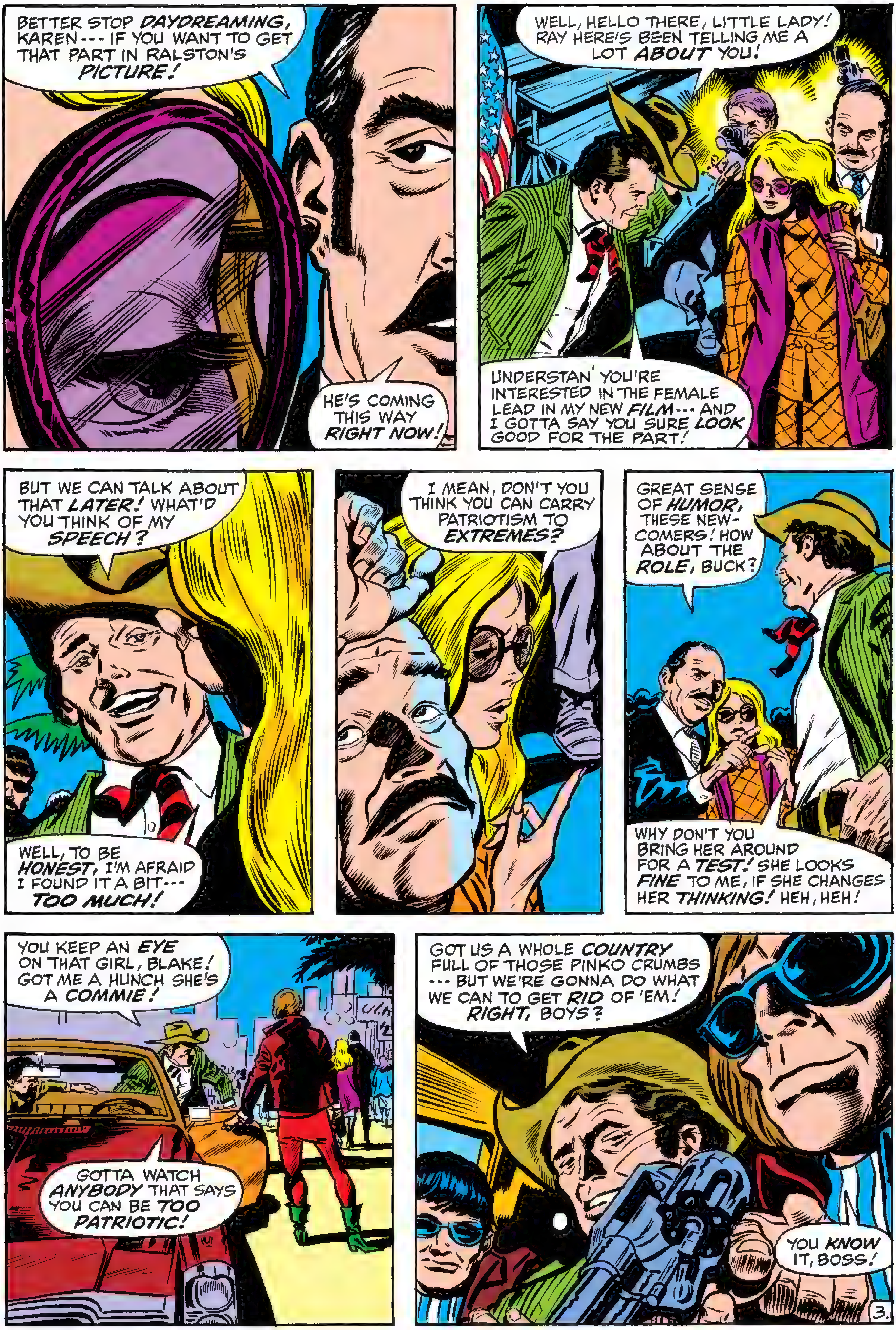
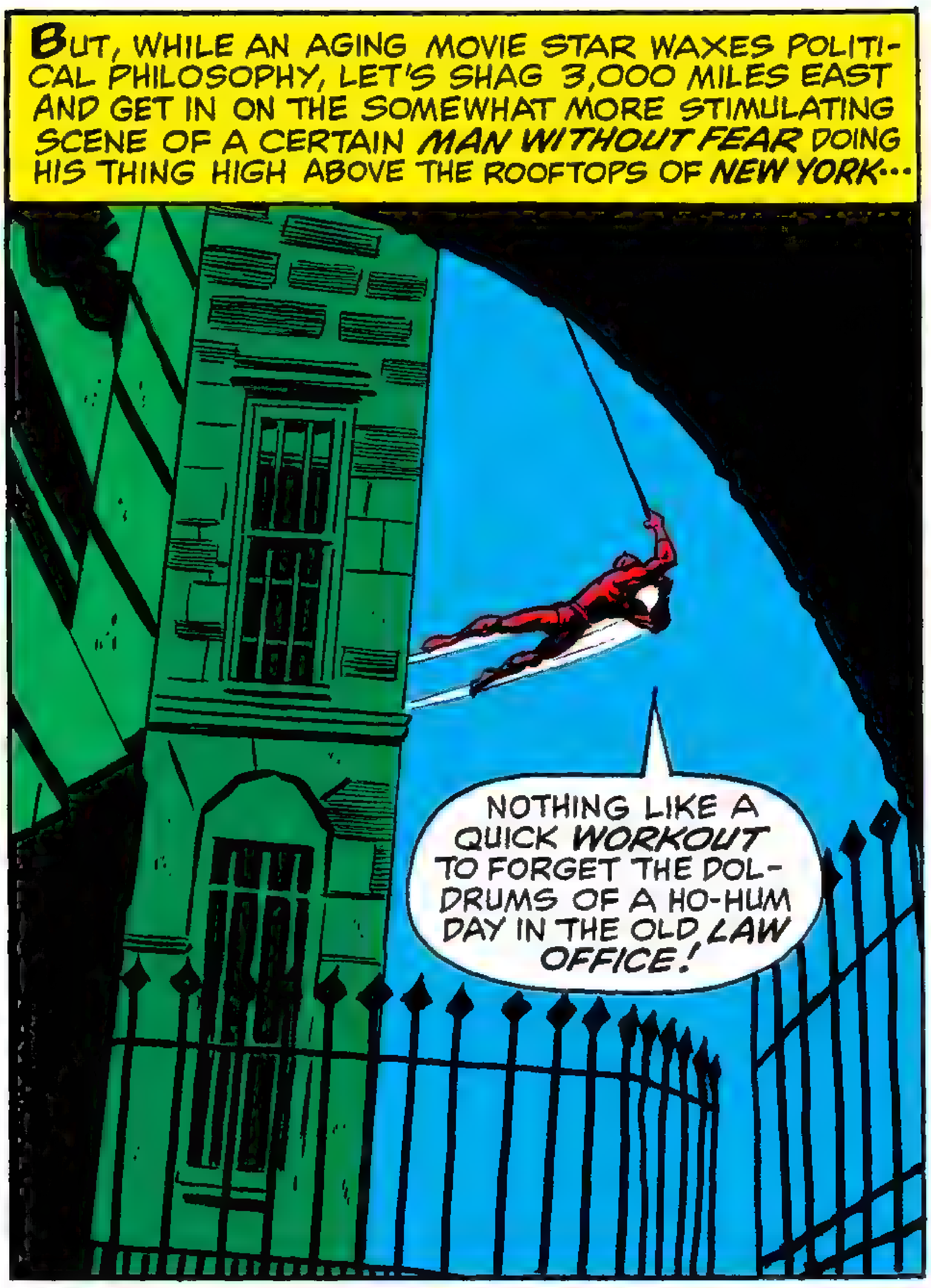
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
HE'S DOWN! DAREDEVIL WAS CAUGHT-- IN THAT BOMB BLAST!
WE PEACE NOW!
PD
AND IF HE DIES... YOU KIDS GET THE CHAIR!!
A CITY IN TURMOIL-- A CITY IN FLAME!

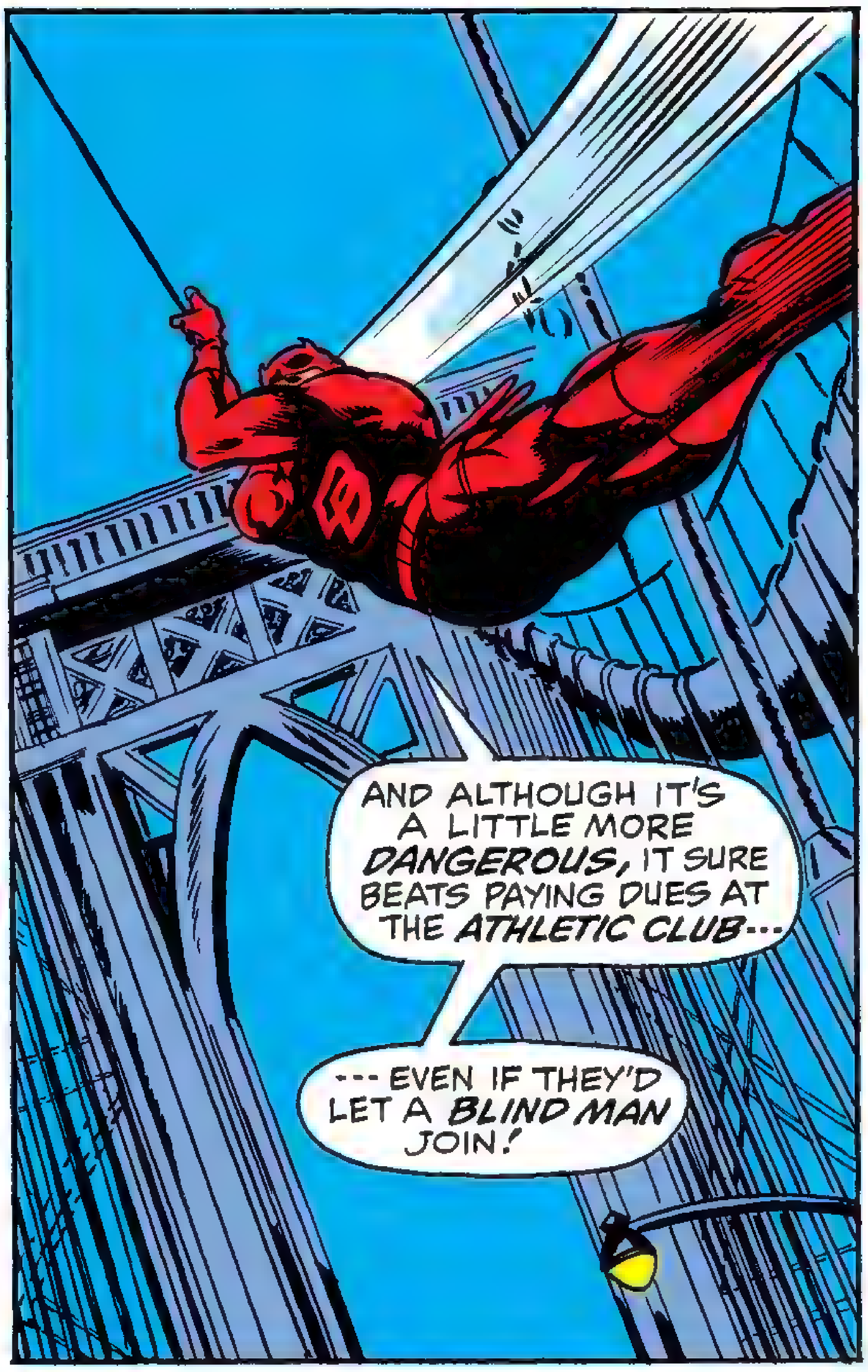
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

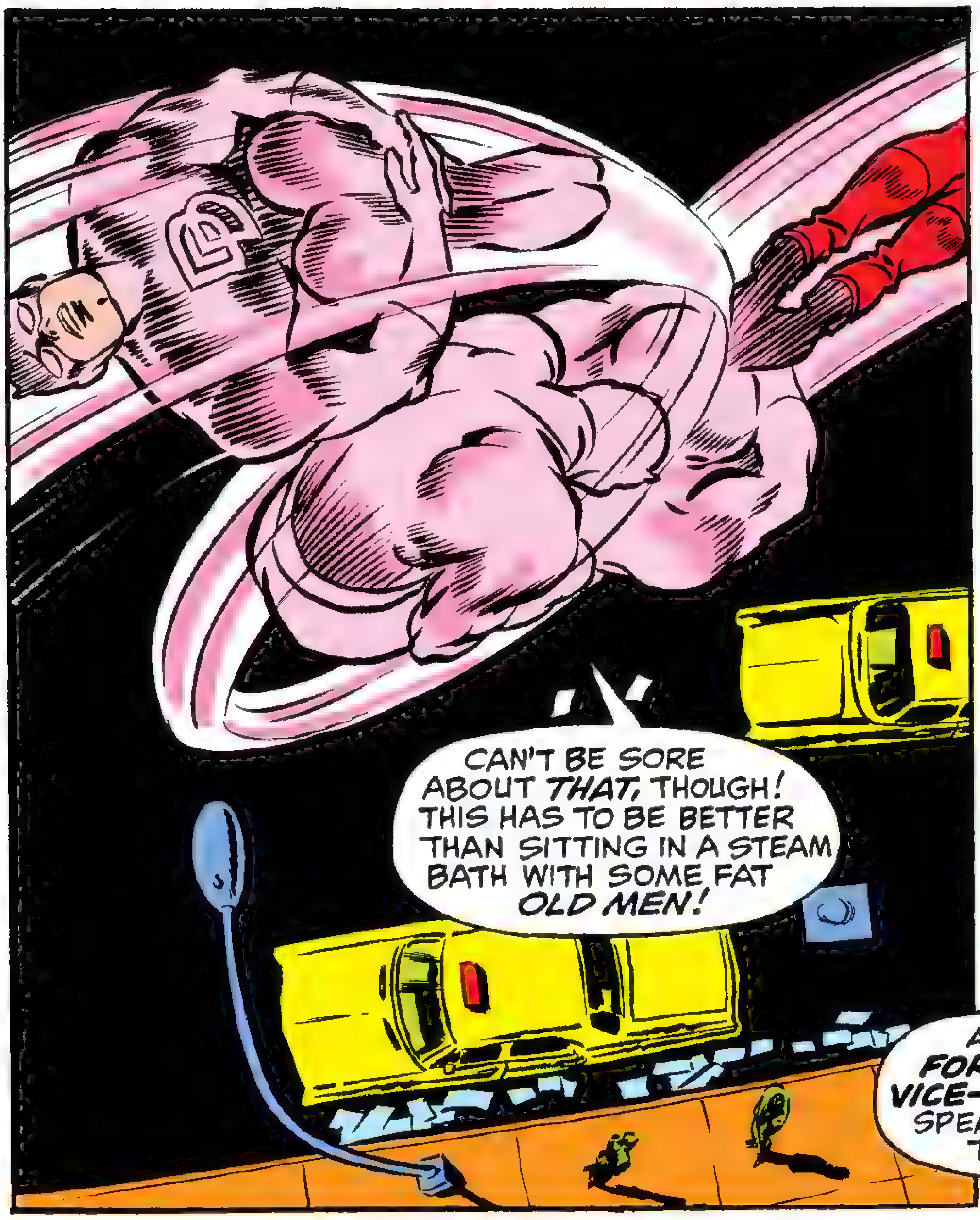

STAN LEE PRESENTS
A STORY BY GARY FRIEDRICH
ILLUSTRATED BY GENE COLAN
and SYD SHORES
LETTERED BY SAM ROSEN
360-Z
THE TRIBUNE
THE TRIBUNE
TRIBUNE
THE TRIBUNE
THE TRIBUNE

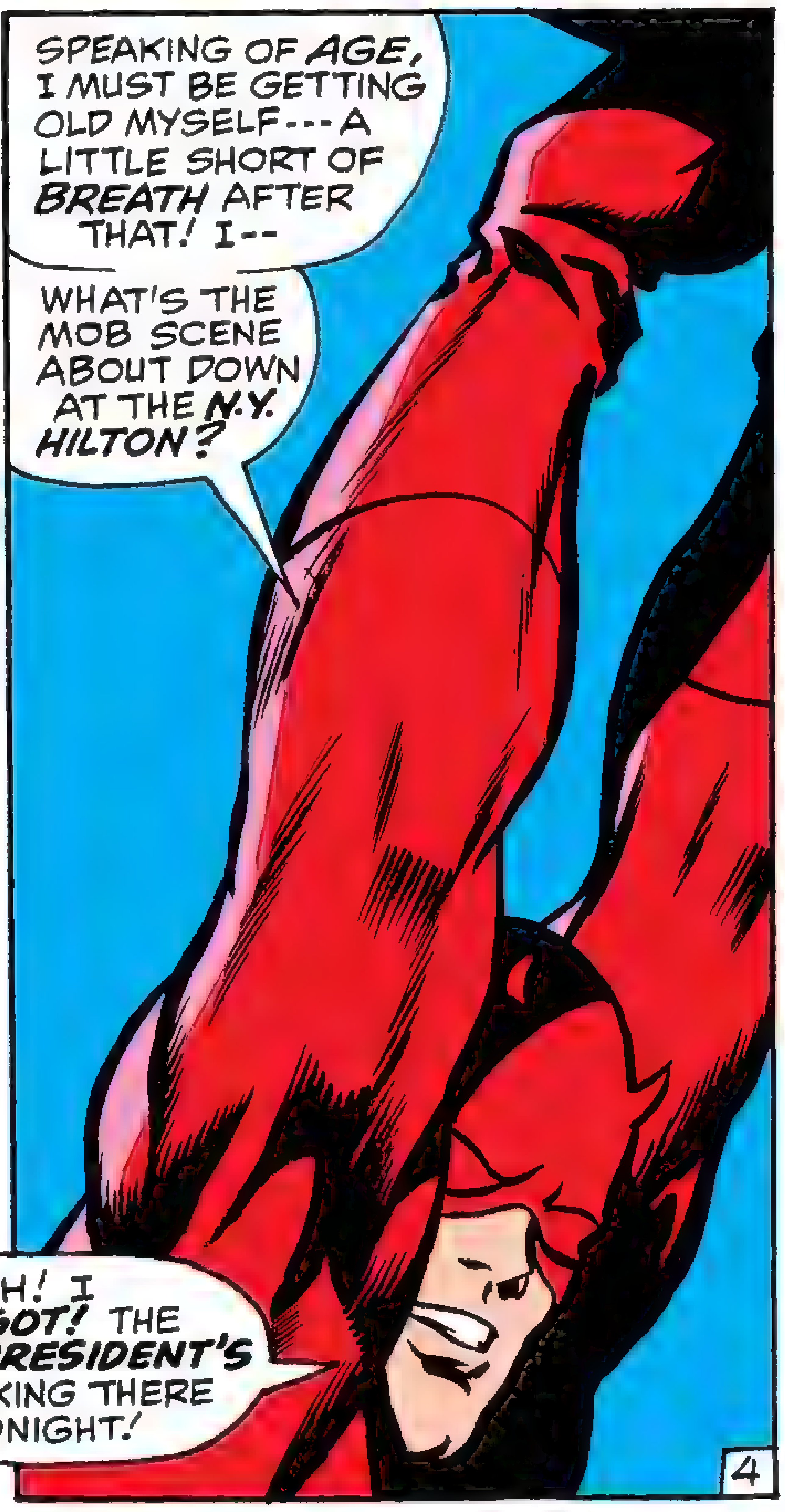

A LARGE CROWD IS GATHERED ON *HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD,* THE TIMES SQUARE OF THE WEST...WHICH IS UNUSUAL FOR ONLY ONE REASON--- INSTEAD OF POLYCHROMATIC HIPPIES OR A SIDEWALK REVIVALIST, THE ATTRACTION IS THE ONE AND ONLY *BUCK RALSTON,* ONE OF THE BIGGEST STARS IN MOTION PICTURE HISTORY---
SO I'M OUT HERE TALKIN' TO YOU PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU'RE *AMERICANS*--- JUST LIKE ME!
AND I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME *PATRIOTS* LIKE US STOPPED BEIN' A *SILENT* MAJORITY!
TANDY
BUT WHILE THE MULTITUDE HANGS ON RALSTON'S EVERY WORD, THERE IS ONE WHOSE MIND IS *ELSEWHERE*---
OH, MATT--- WHY HAVEN'T I *HEARD* FROM YOU? YOU COULD AT LEAST *CALL*---
---OR MAYBE YOU'RE TOO BUSY BEING *DAREDEVIL!*

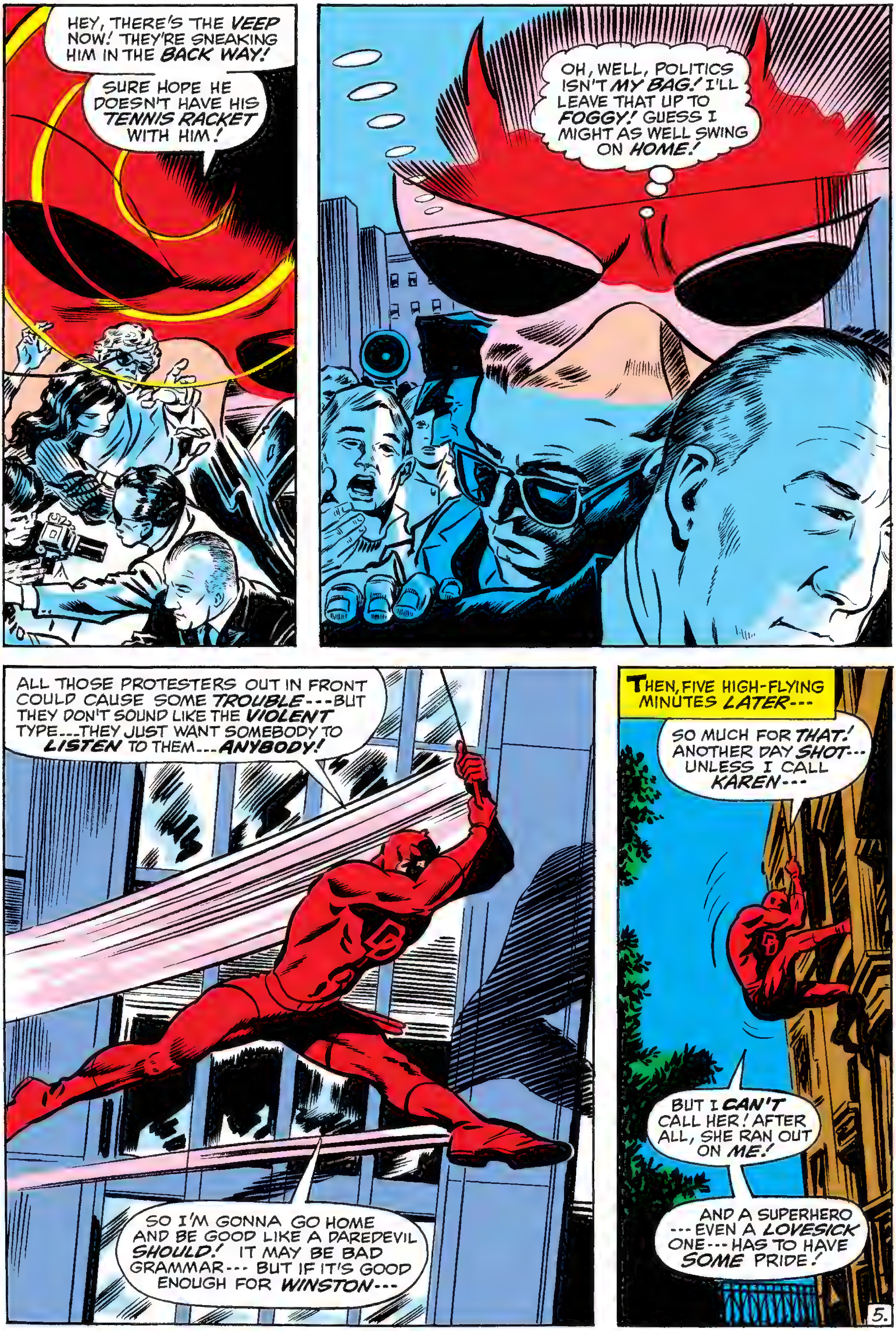

BETTER STOP DAYDREAMING, KAREN--- IF YOU WANT TO GET THAT PART IN RALSTON'S PICTURE!
HE'S COMING THIS WAY RIGHT NOW!
WELL, HELLO THERE, LITTLE LADY! RAY HERE'S BEEN TELLING ME A LOT ABOUT YOU!
UNDERSTAN' YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE FEMALE LEAD IN MY NEW FILM--- AND I GOTTA SAY YOU SURE LOOK GOOD FOR THE PART!
BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER! WHAT'D YOU THINK OF MY SPEECH?
WELL, TO BE HONEST, I'M AFRAID I FOUND IT A BIT--- TOO MUCH!
I MEAN, DON'T YOU THINK YOU CAN CARRY PATRIOTISM TO EXTREMES?
GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR, THESE NEWCOMERS! HOW ABOUT THE ROLE, BUCK?
WHY DON'T YOU BRING HER AROUND FOR A TEST! SHE LOOKS FINE TO ME, IF SHE CHANGES HER THINKING! HEH, HEH!
YOU KEEP AN EYE ON THAT GIRL, BLAKE! GOT ME A HUNCH SHE'S A COMMIE!
GOTTA WATCH ANYBODY THAT SAYS YOU CAN BE TOO PATRIOTIC!
GOT US A WHOLE COUNTRY FULL OF THOSE PINKO CRUMBS--- BUT WE'RE GONNA DO WHAT WE CAN TO GET RID OF 'EM! RIGHT, BOYS?
YOU KNOW IT, BOSS!

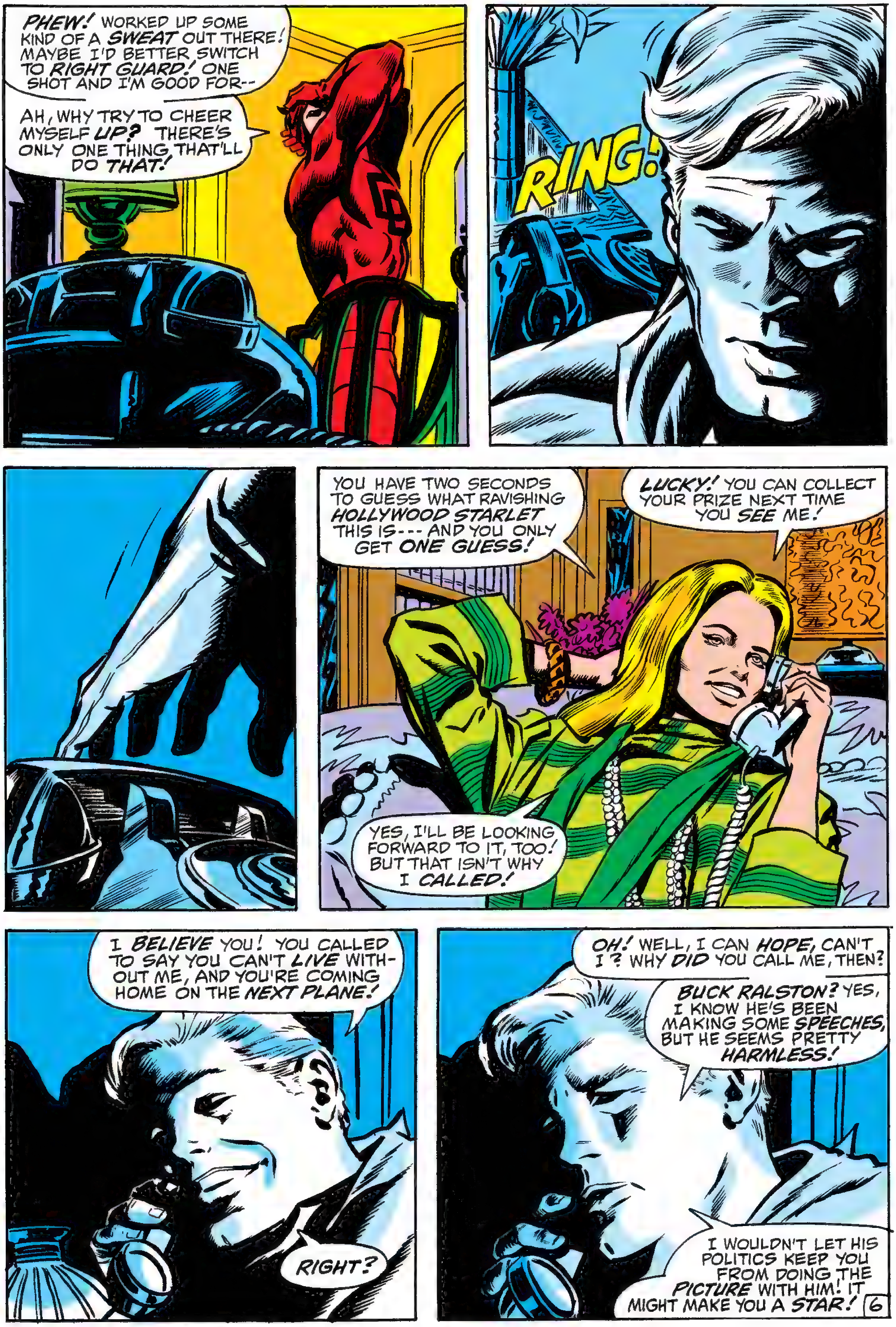

BUT, WHILE AN AGING MOVIE STAR WAXES POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, LET'S SHAG 3,000 MILES EAST AND GET IN ON THE SOMEWHAT MORE STIMULATING SCENE OF A CERTAIN *MAN WITHOUT FEAR* DOING HIS THING HIGH ABOVE THE ROOFTOPS OF *NEW YORK*...
NOTHING LIKE A QUICK *WORKOUT* TO FORGET THE DOLDRUMS OF A HO-HUM DAY IN THE OLD *LAW OFFICE!*

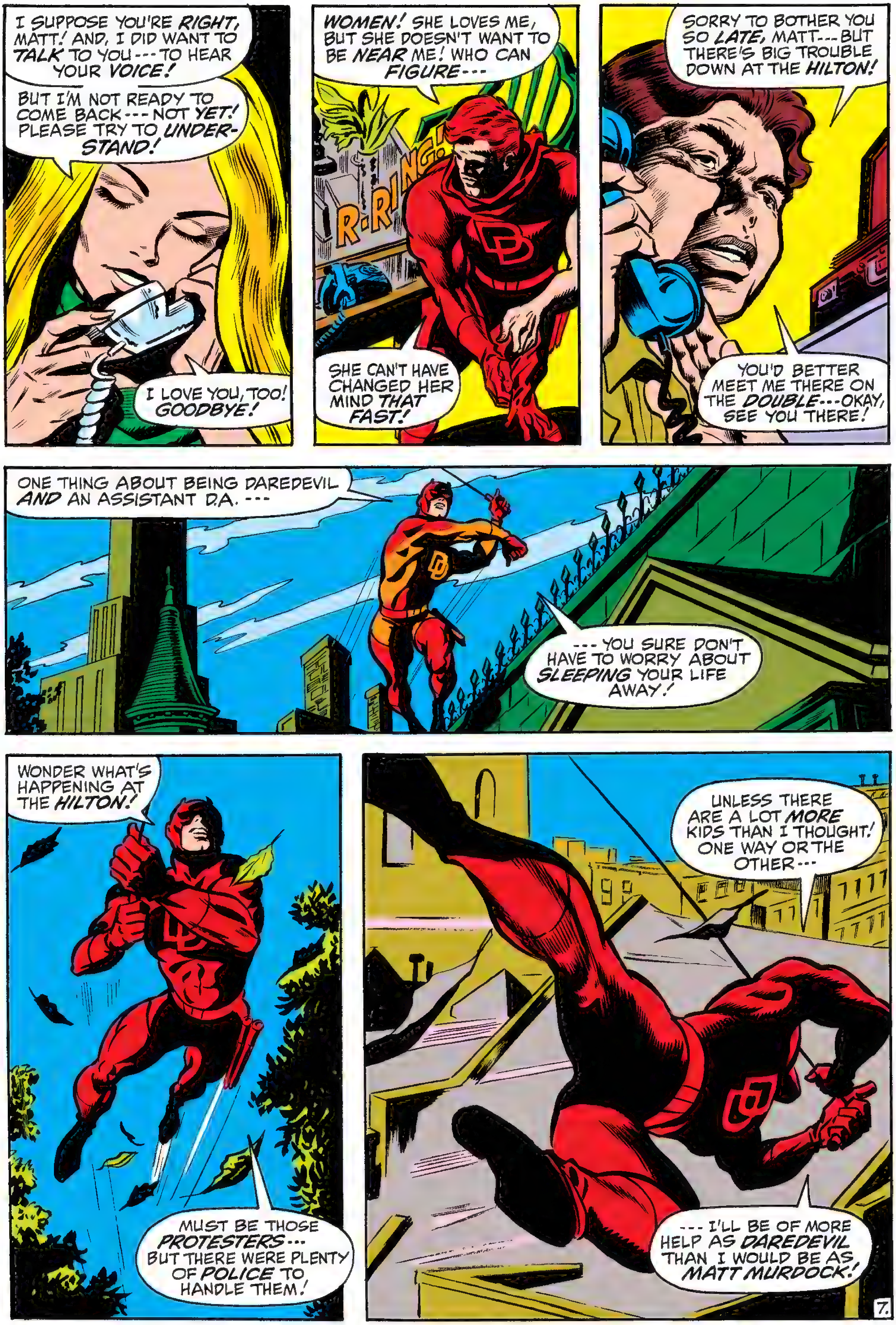

AND ALTHOUGH IT'S A LITTLE MORE *DANGEROUS*, IT SURE BEATS PAYING DUES AT THE *ATHLETIC CLUB*...
...EVEN IF THEY'D LET A *BLIND MAN* JOIN!

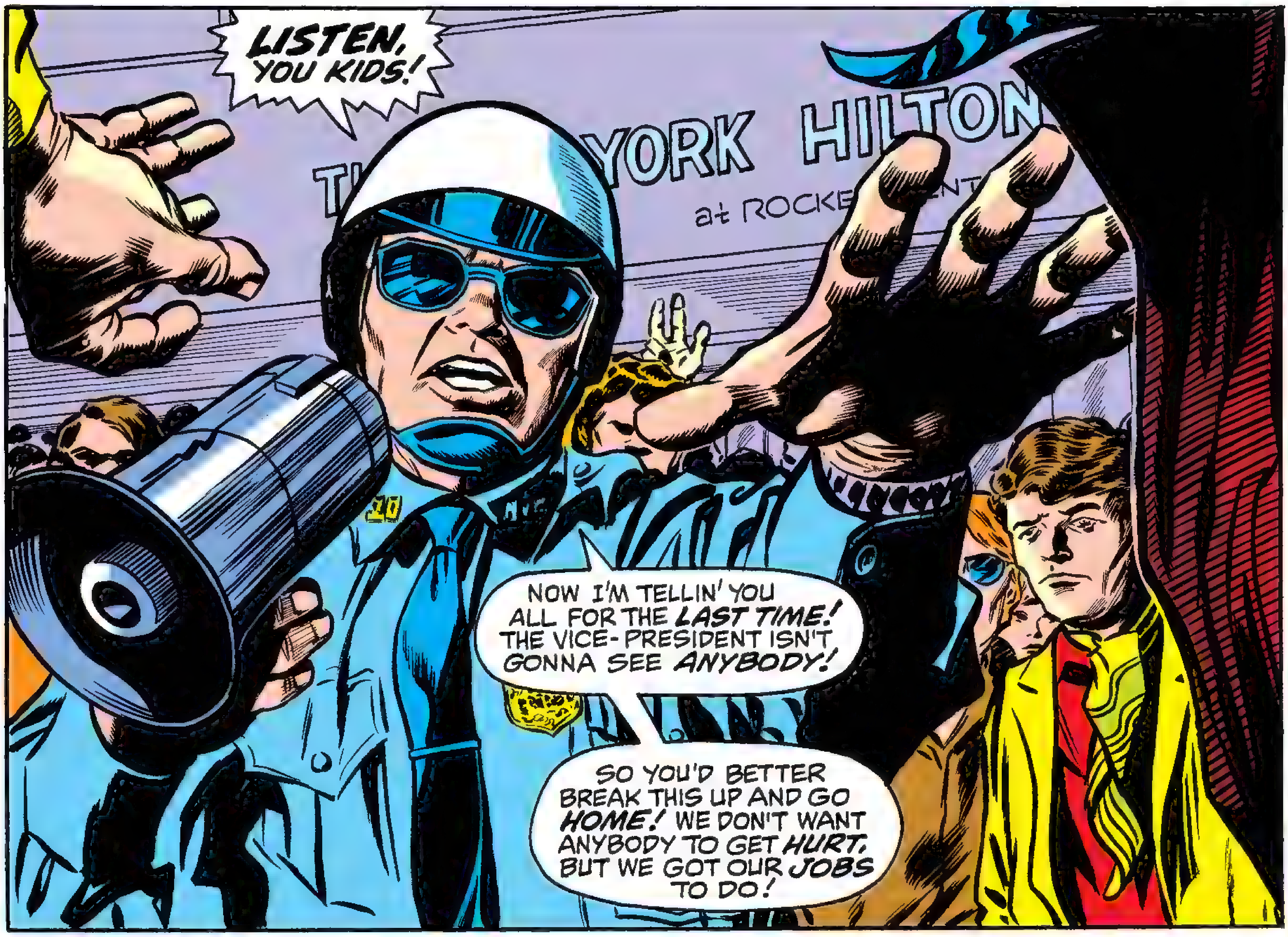

CAN'T BE SORE ABOUT *THAT*, THOUGH! THIS HAS TO BE BETTER THAN SITTING IN A STEAM BATH WITH SOME FAT *OLD MEN!*

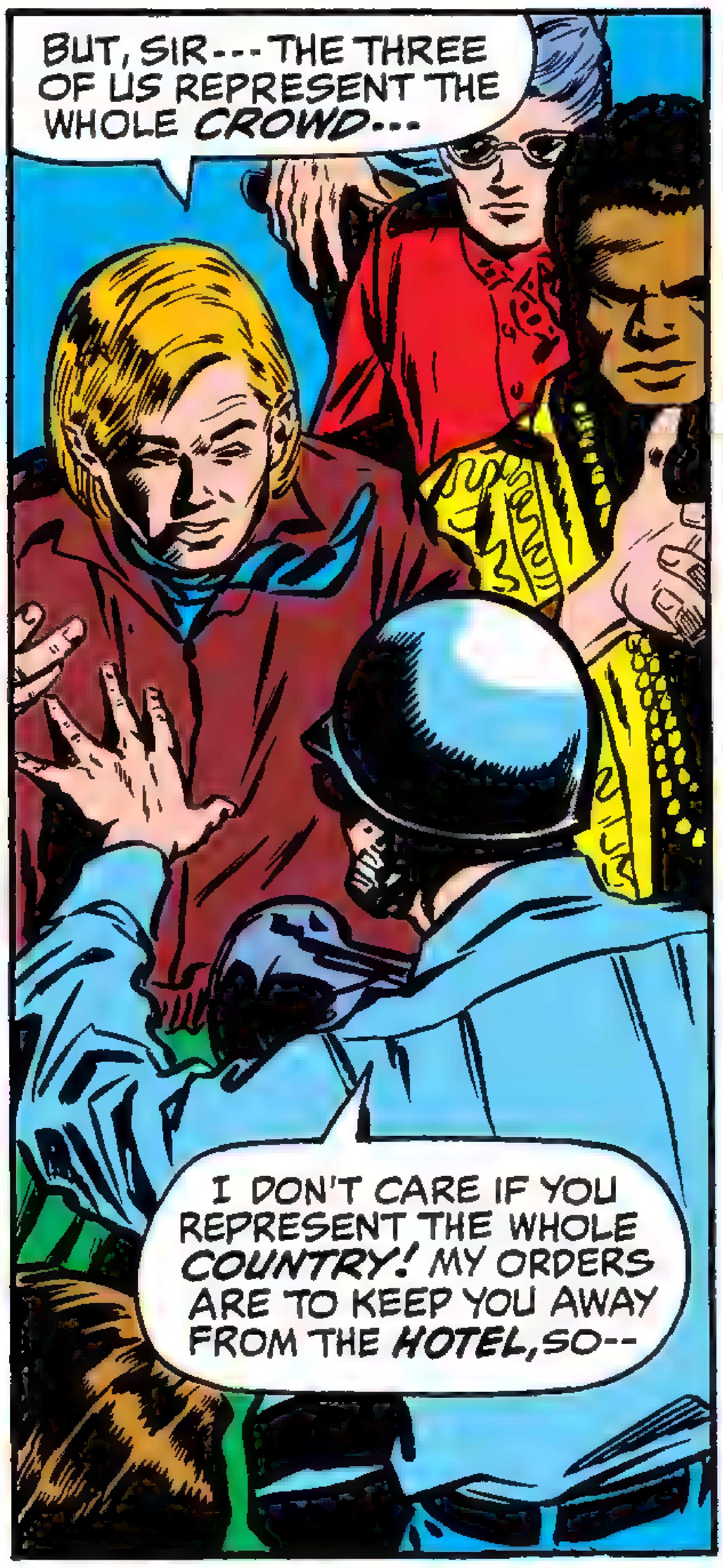

SPEAKING OF *AGE*, I MUST BE GETTING OLD MYSELF---A LITTLE SHORT OF *BREATH* AFTER THAT! I--
WHAT'S THE MOB SCENE ABOUT DOWN AT THE *N.Y. HILTON?*
AHH! I *FORGOT!* THE *VICE-PRESIDENT'S* SPEAKING THERE TONIGHT!

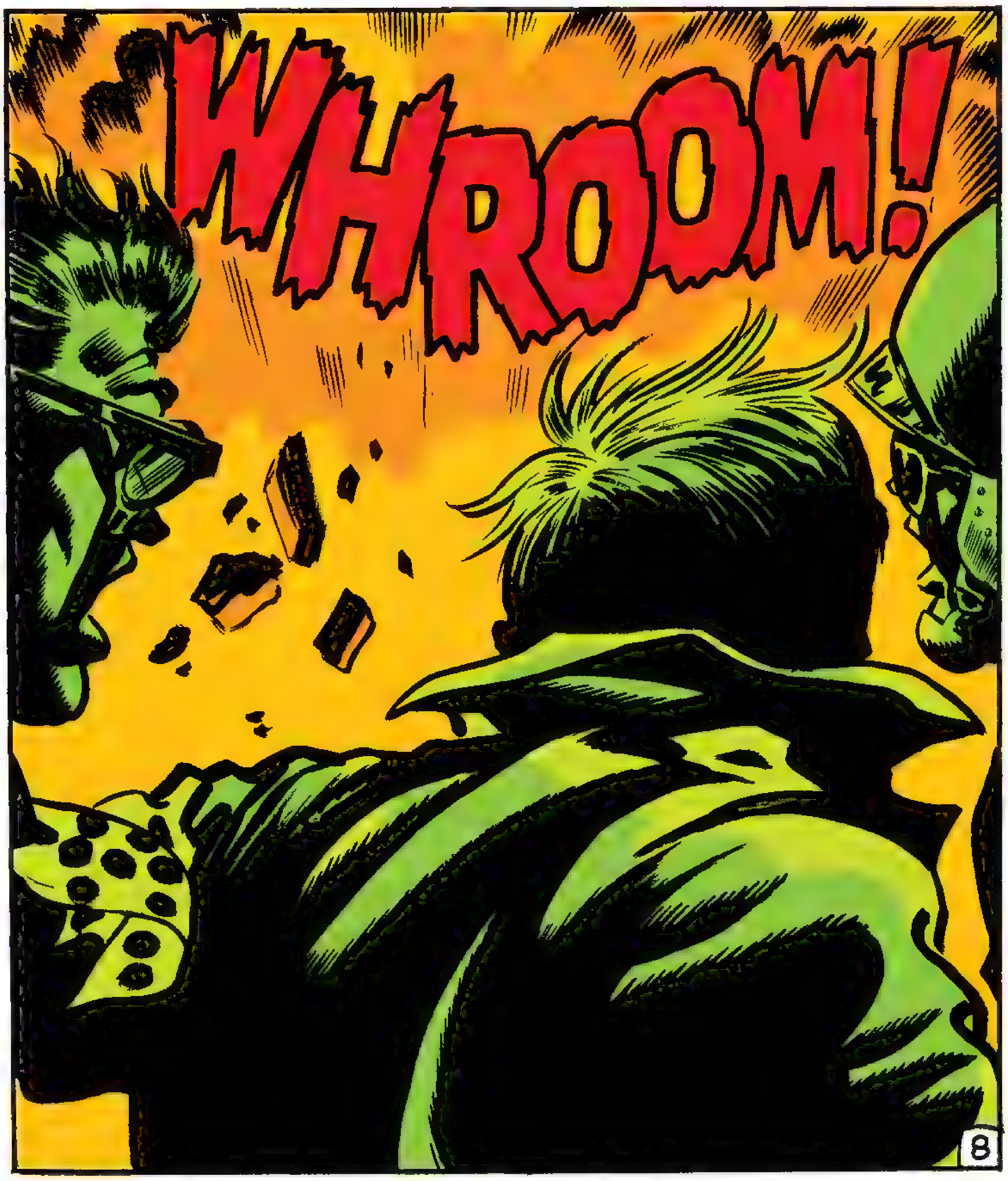

HEY, THERE'S THE *VEEP* NOW! THEY'RE SNEAKING HIM IN THE *BACK WAY!*
SURE HOPE HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS *TENNIS RACKET* WITH HIM!
OH, WELL, POLITICS ISN'T *MY BAG!* I'LL LEAVE THAT UP TO *FOGGY!* GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL SWING ON *HOME!*
ALL THOSE PROTESTERS OUT IN FRONT COULD CAUSE SOME *TROUBLE*---BUT THEY DON'T SOUND LIKE THE *VIOLENT* TYPE---THEY JUST WANT SOMEBODY TO *LISTEN* TO THEM---*ANYBODY!*
SO I'M GONNA GO HOME AND BE GOOD LIKE A DAREDEVIL *SHOULD!* IT MAY BE BAD GRAMMAR--- BUT IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR *WINSTON*---
THEN, FIVE HIGH-FLYING MINUTES *LATER*---
SO MUCH FOR *THAT!* ANOTHER DAY *SHOT*--- UNLESS I CALL *KAREN*---
BUT I *CAN'T* CALL HER! AFTER ALL, SHE RAN OUT ON *ME!*
AND A SUPERHERO ---EVEN A *LOVESICK* ONE---HAS TO HAVE *SOME* PRIDE!

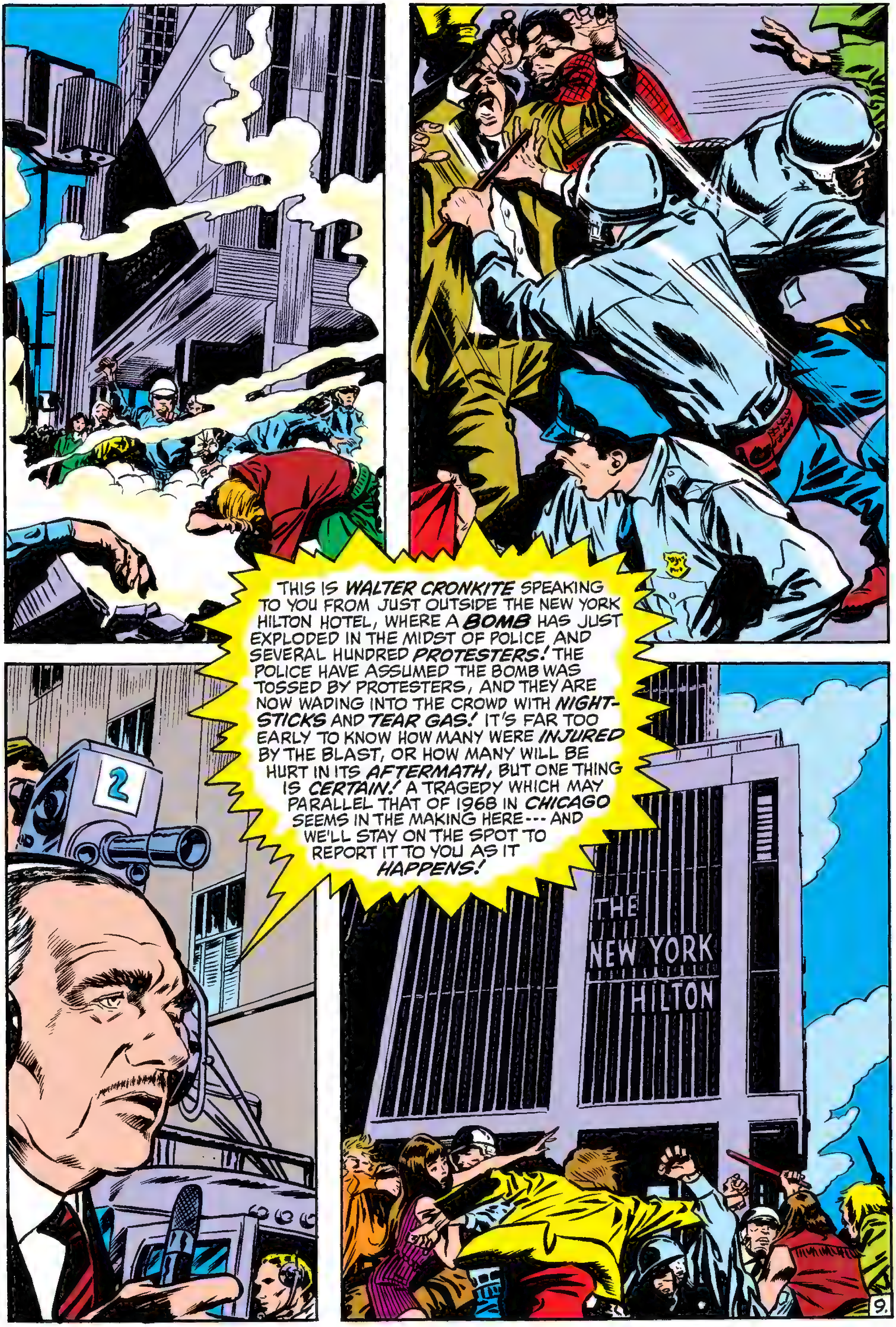

PHEW! WORKED UP SOME KIND OF A SWEAT OUT THERE! MAYBE I'D BETTER SWITCH TO RIGHT GUARD! ONE SHOT AND I'M GOOD FOR--
AH, WHY TRY TO CHEER MYSELF UP? THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT'LL DO THAT!
RING!
YOU HAVE TWO SECONDS TO GUESS WHAT RAVISHING HOLLYWOOD STARLET THIS IS--- AND YOU ONLY GET ONE GUESS!
LUCKY! YOU CAN COLLECT YOUR PRIZE NEXT TIME YOU SEE ME!
YES, I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, TOO! BUT THAT ISN'T WHY I CALLED!
I BELIEVE YOU! YOU CALLED TO SAY YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ME, AND YOU'RE COMING HOME ON THE NEXT PLANE!
RIGHT?
OH! WELL, I CAN HOPE, CAN'T I? WHY DID YOU CALL ME, THEN?
BUCK RALSTON? YES, I KNOW HE'S BEEN MAKING SOME SPEECHES, BUT HE SEEMS PRETTY HARMLESS!
I WOULDN'T LET HIS POLITICS KEEP YOU FROM DOING THE PICTURE WITH HIM! IT MIGHT MAKE YOU A STAR!

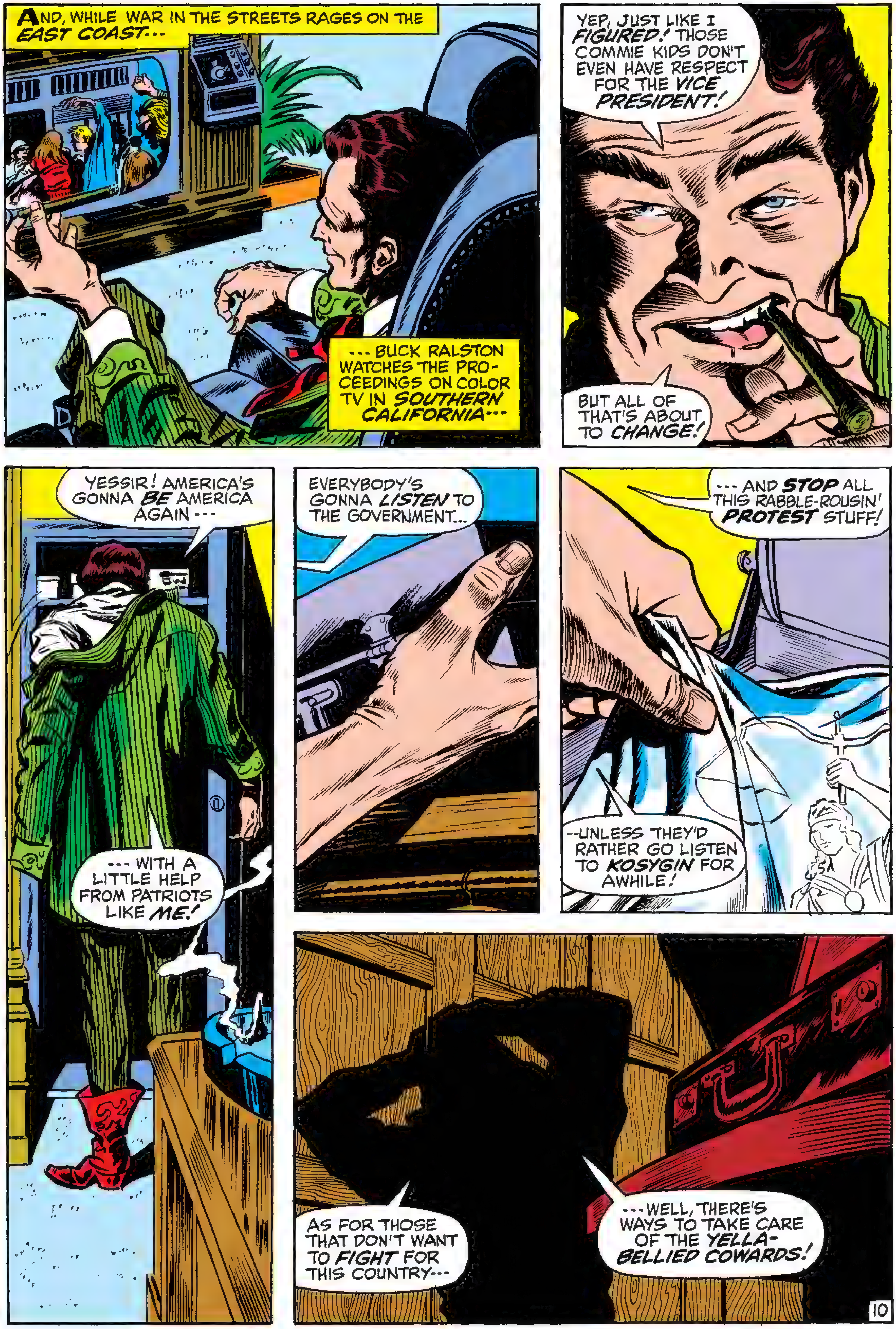

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE *RIGHT*, MATT! AND, I DID WANT TO *TALK* TO YOU---TO HEAR YOUR *VOICE*!
BUT I'M NOT READY TO COME BACK---NOT *YET*! PLEASE TRY TO *UNDERSTAND*!
I LOVE YOU, TOO! GOODBYE!
WOMEN! SHE LOVES ME, BUT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE *NEAR* ME! WHO CAN *FIGURE*---
R-RING!
SHE CAN'T HAVE CHANGED HER MIND *THAT FAST!*
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU SO *LATE*, MATT---BUT THERE'S BIG TROUBLE DOWN AT THE *HILTON!*
YOU'D BETTER MEET ME THERE ON THE *DOUBLE*---OKAY, SEE YOU THERE!
ONE THING ABOUT BEING DAREDEVIL *AND* AN ASSISTANT D.A.---
---YOU SURE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT *SLEEPING* YOUR LIFE AWAY!
WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE *HILTON!*
MUST BE THOSE *PROTESTERS*... BUT THERE WERE PLENTY OF *POLICE* TO HANDLE THEM!
UNLESS THERE ARE A LOT *MORE* KIDS THAN I THOUGHT! ONE WAY OR THE OTHER---
---I'LL BE OF MORE HELP AS *DAREDEVIL* THAN I WOULD BE AS *MATT MURDOCK!*

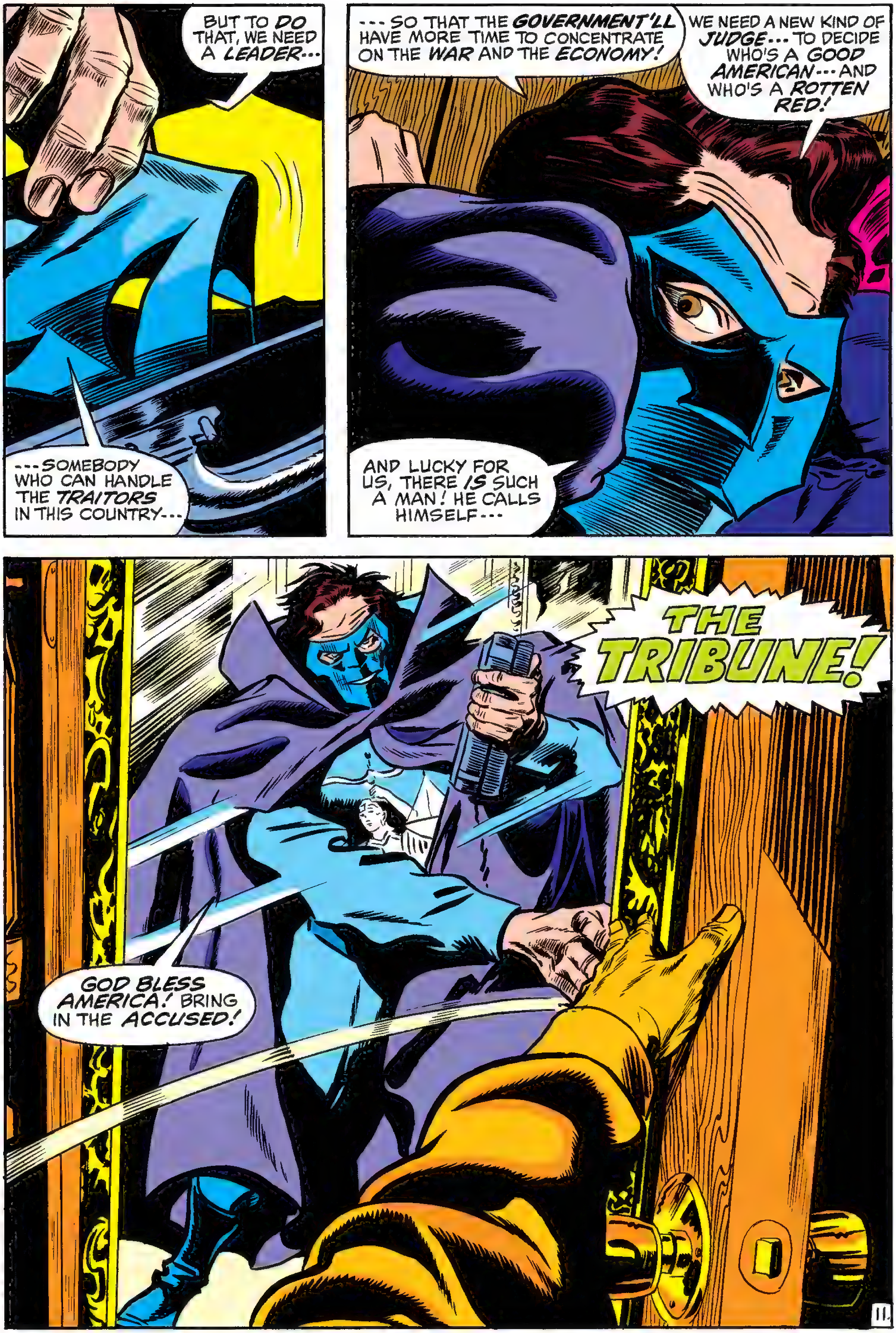

LISTEN, YOU KIDS!
YORK HILTON
at ROCKE
NOW I'M TELLIN' YOU ALL FOR THE *LAST TIME!* THE VICE-PRESIDENT ISN'T GONNA SEE *ANYBODY!*
SO YOU'D BETTER BREAK THIS UP AND GO *HOME!* WE DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO GET *HURT.* BUT WE GOT OUR *JOBS* TO DO!

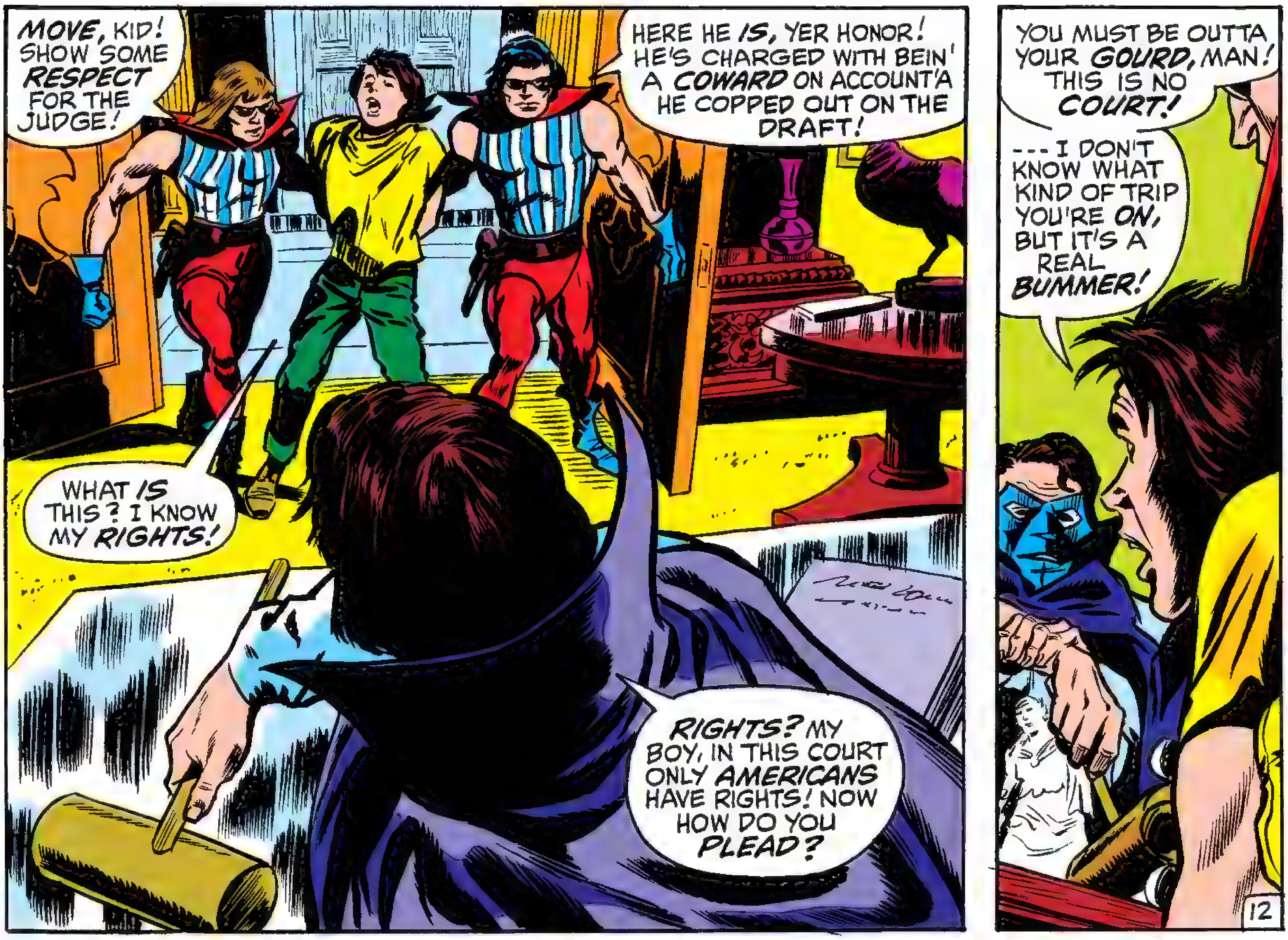

BUT, SIR--- THE THREE OF US REPRESENT THE WHOLE *CROWD*...
I DON'T CARE IF YOU REPRESENT THE WHOLE *COUNTRY!* MY ORDERS ARE TO KEEP YOU AWAY FROM THE *HOTEL*, SO--

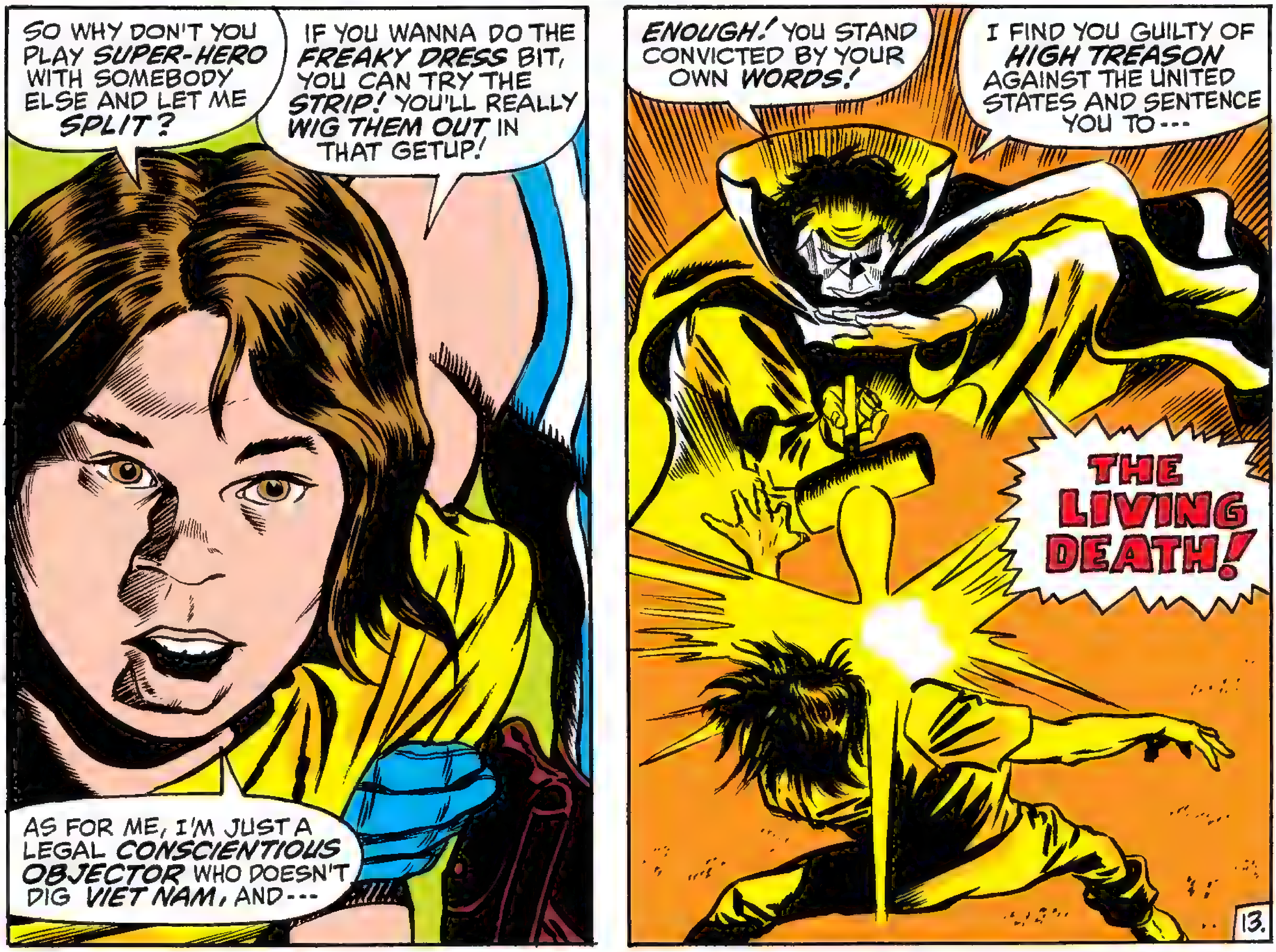

WHROOM!

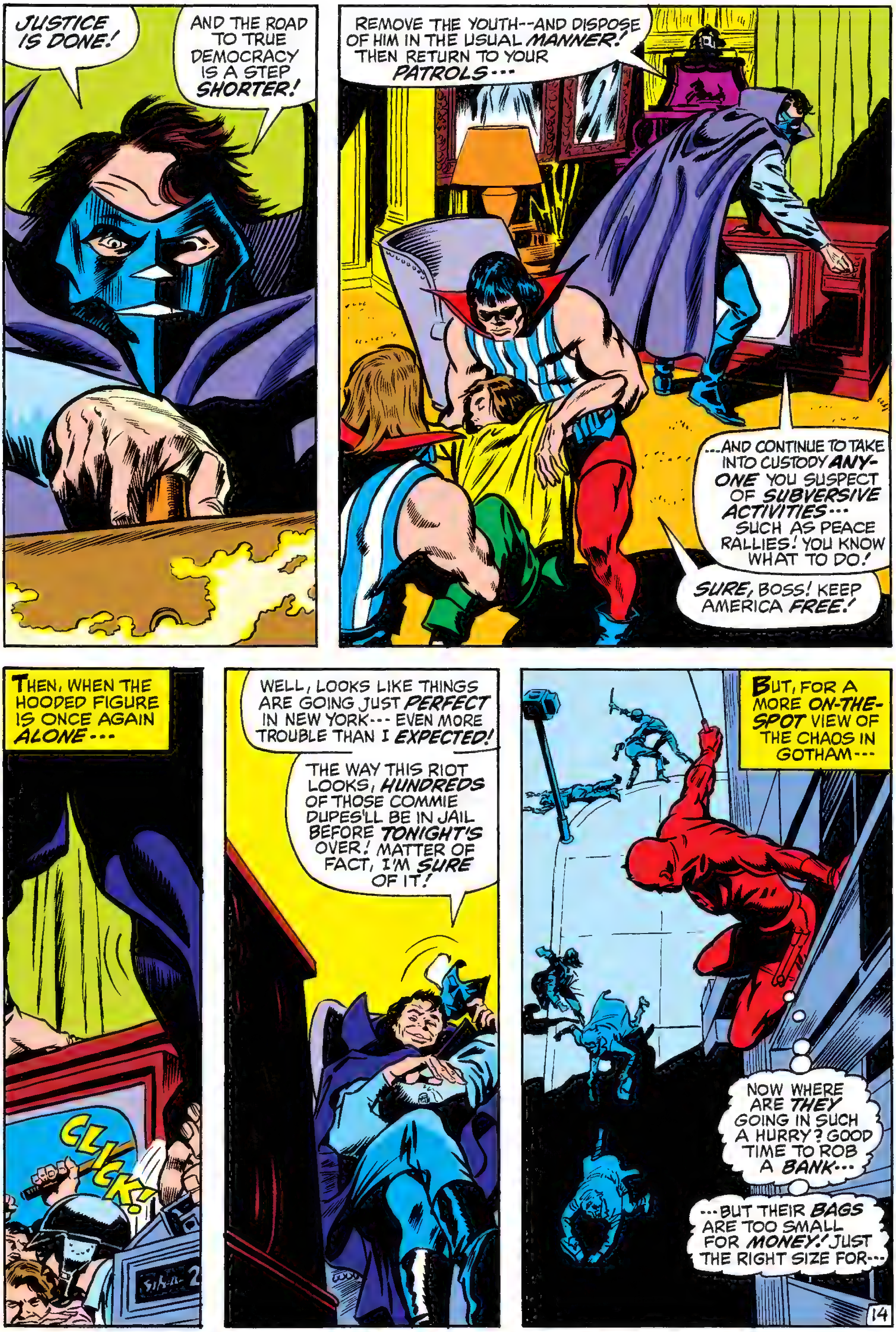

THIS IS WALTER CRONKITE SPEAKING TO YOU FROM JUST OUTSIDE THE NEW YORK HILTON HOTEL, WHERE A BOMB HAS JUST EXPLODED IN THE MIDST OF POLICE AND SEVERAL HUNDRED PROTESTERS! THE POLICE HAVE ASSUMED THE BOMB WAS TOSSED BY PROTESTERS, AND THEY ARE NOW WADING INTO THE CROWD WITH NIGHTSTICKS AND TEAR GAS! IT'S FAR TOO EARLY TO KNOW HOW MANY WERE INJURED BY THE BLAST, OR HOW MANY WILL BE HURT IN ITS AFTERMATH, BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN! A TRAGEDY WHICH MAY PARALLEL THAT OF 1968 IN CHICAGO SEEMS IN THE MAKING HERE--- AND WE'LL STAY ON THE SPOT TO REPORT IT TO YOU AS IT HAPPENS!
2
THE NEW YORK HILTON

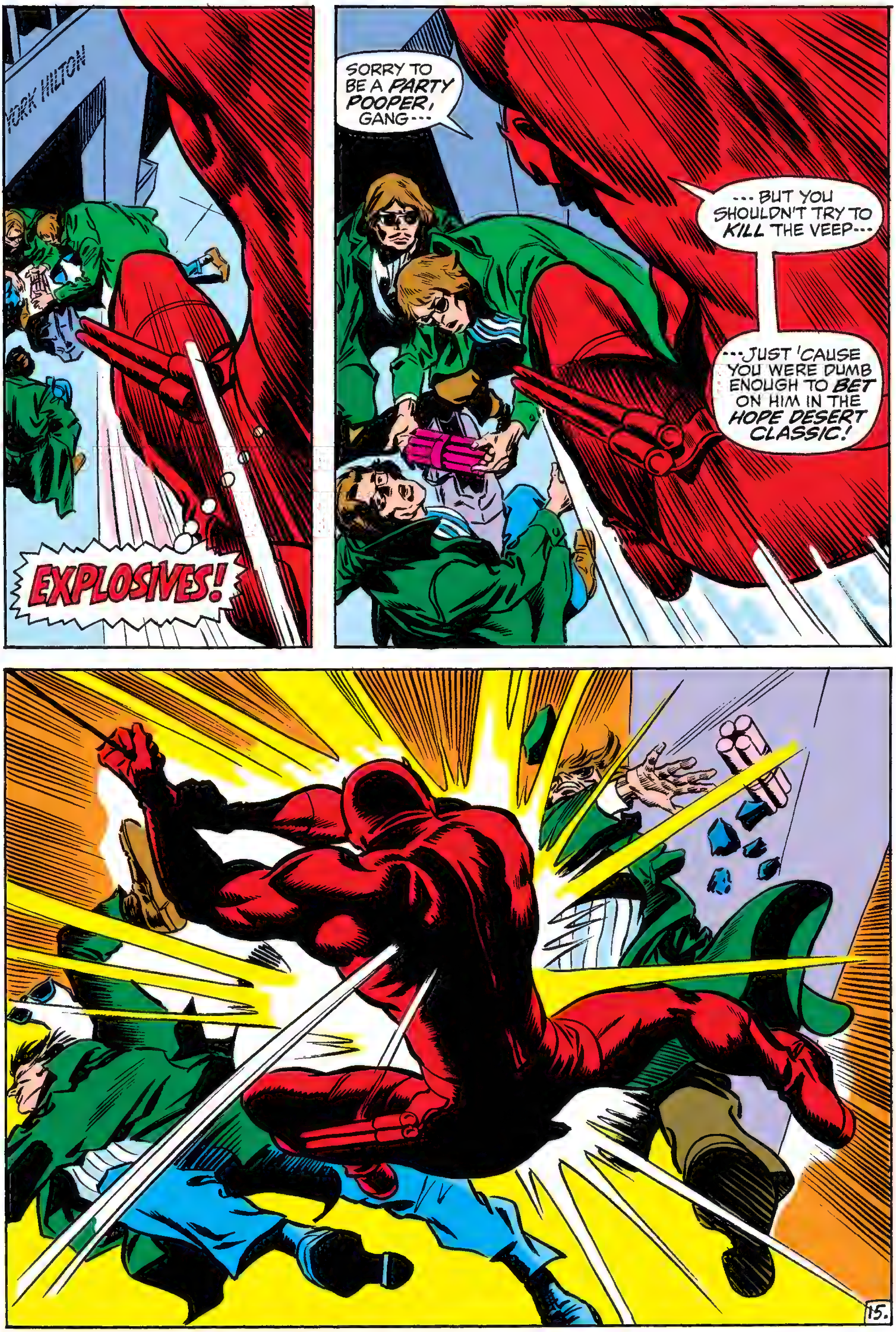

AND, WHILE WAR IN THE STREETS RAGES ON THE *EAST COAST*...
...BUCK RALSTON WATCHES THE PROCEEDINGS ON COLOR TV IN *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*...
YEP, JUST LIKE I *FIGURED!* THOSE COMMIE KIDS DON'T EVEN HAVE RESPECT FOR THE *VICE PRESIDENT!*
BUT ALL OF THAT'S ABOUT TO *CHANGE!*
YESSIR! AMERICA'S GONNA *BE* AMERICA AGAIN---
---WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM PATRIOTS LIKE *ME!*
EVERYBODY'S GONNA *LISTEN* TO THE GOVERNMENT...
---AND *STOP* ALL THIS RABBLE-ROUSIN' *PROTEST* STUFF!
--UNLESS THEY'D RATHER GO LISTEN TO *KOSYGIN* FOR AWHILE!
AS FOR THOSE THAT DON'T WANT TO *FIGHT* FOR THIS COUNTRY---
---WELL, THERE'S WAYS TO TAKE CARE OF THE *YELLA-BELLIED COWARDS!*

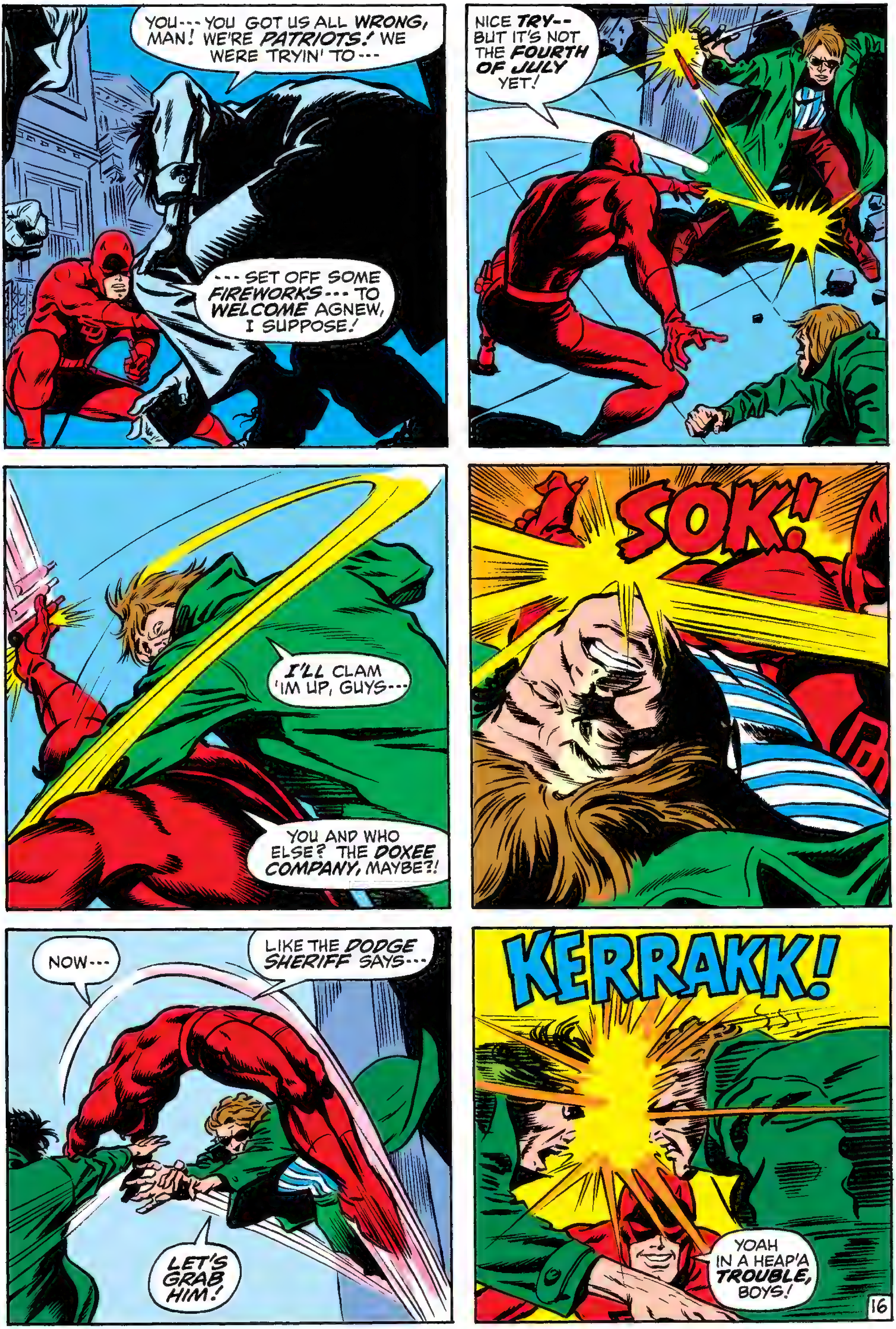

BUT TO DO THAT, WE NEED A LEADER---
---SOMEBODY WHO CAN HANDLE THE TRAITORS IN THIS COUNTRY---
---SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT'LL HAVE MORE TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON THE WAR AND THE ECONOMY!
WE NEED A NEW KIND OF JUDGE--- TO DECIDE WHO'S A GOOD AMERICAN---AND WHO'S A ROTTEN RED!
AND LUCKY FOR US, THERE IS SUCH A MAN! HE CALLS HIMSELF---
THE TRIBUNE!
GOD BLESS AMERICA! BRING IN THE ACCUSED!

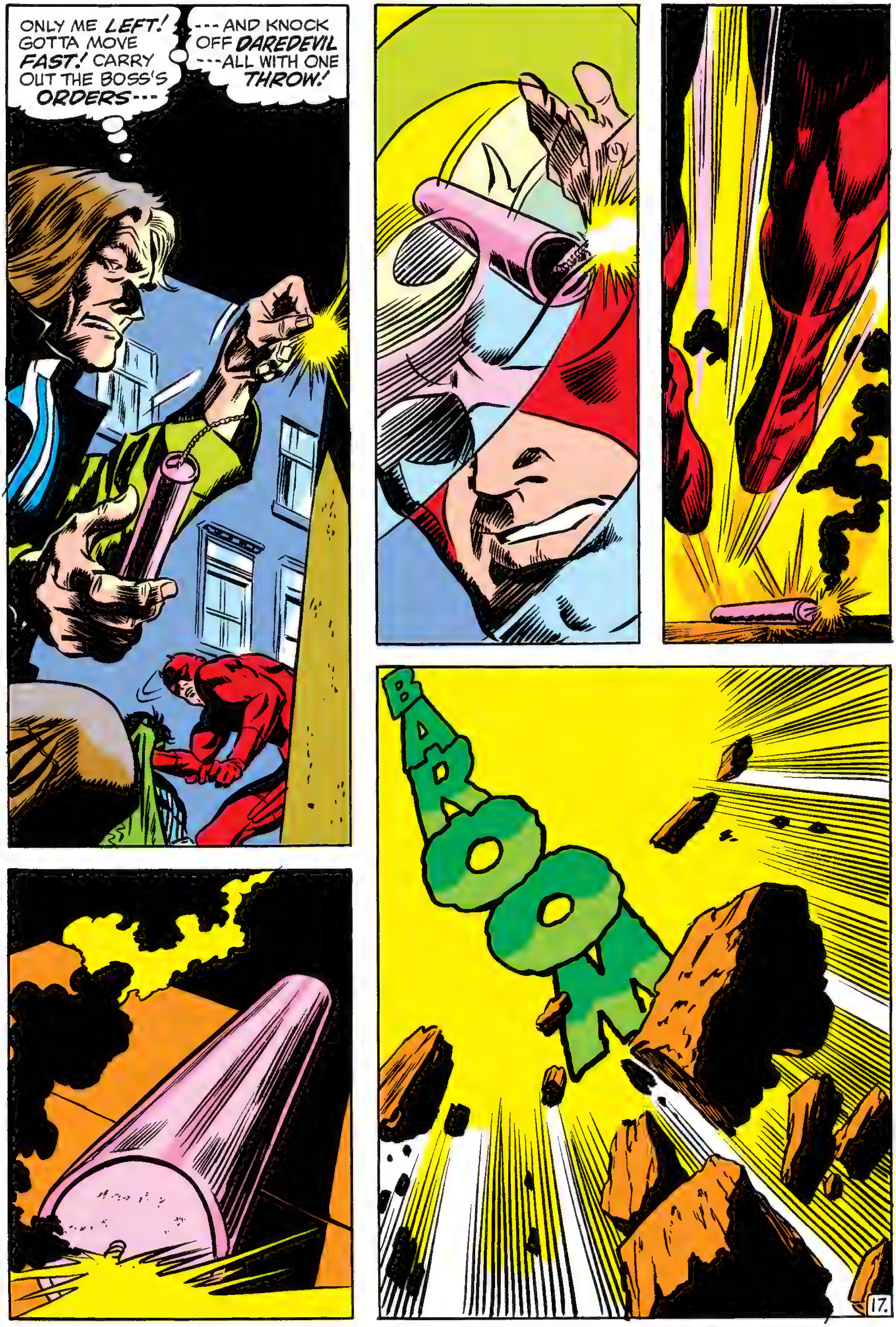

MOVE, KID! SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR THE JUDGE!
HERE HE IS, YER HONOR! HE'S CHARGED WITH BEIN' A COWARD ON ACCOUNT'A HE COPPED OUT ON THE DRAFT!
WHAT IS THIS? I KNOW MY RIGHTS!
RIGHTS? MY BOY, IN THIS COURT ONLY AMERICANS HAVE RIGHTS! NOW HOW DO YOU PLEAD?
YOU MUST BE OUTTA YOUR GOURD, MAN! THIS IS NO COURT!
--- I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TRIP YOU'RE ON, BUT IT'S A REAL BUMMER!
12

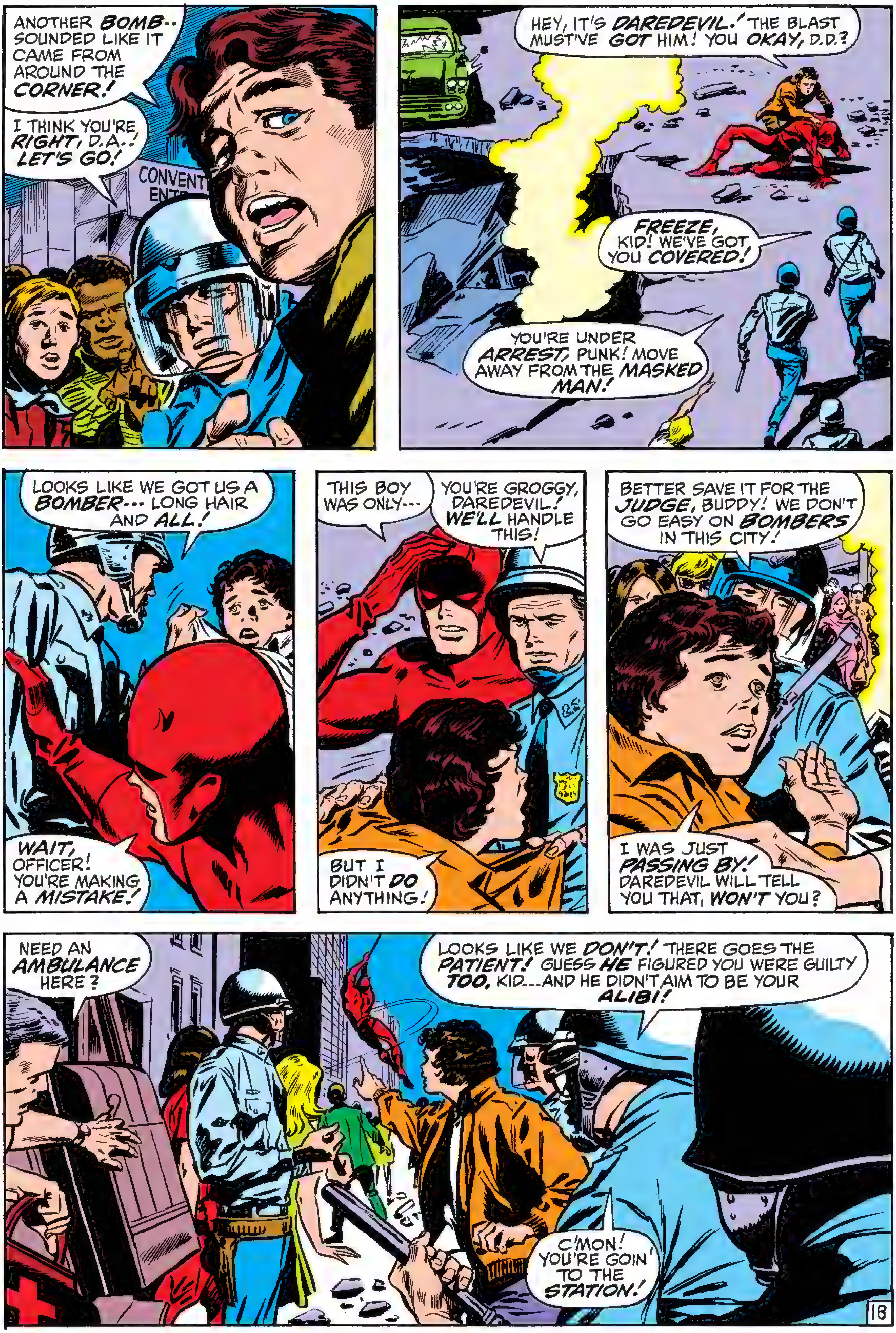

SO WHY DON'T YOU PLAY SUPER-HERO WITH SOMEBODY ELSE AND LET ME SPLIT?
IF YOU WANNA DO THE FREAKY DRESS BIT, YOU CAN TRY THE STRIP! YOU'LL REALLY WIG THEM OUT IN THAT GETUP!
AS FOR ME, I'M JUST A LEGAL CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR WHO DOESN'T DIG VIET NAM, AND ---
ENOUGH! YOU STAND CONVICTED BY YOUR OWN WORDS!
I FIND YOU GUILTY OF HIGH TREASON AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND SENTENCE YOU TO ---
THE LIVING DEATH!
13.

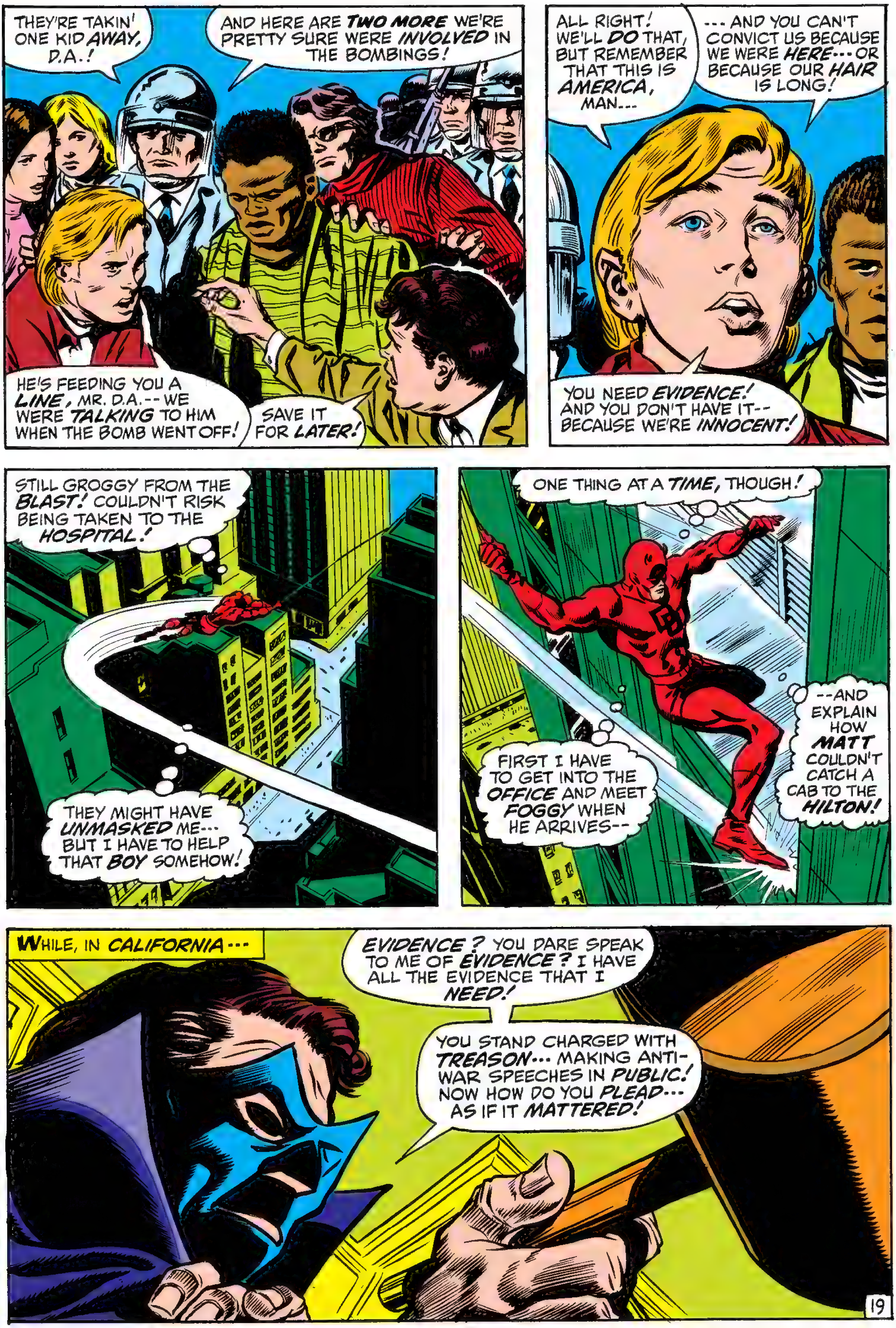

JUSTICE IS DONE!
AND THE ROAD TO TRUE DEMOCRACY IS A STEP SHORTER!
REMOVE THE YOUTH--AND DISPOSE OF HIM IN THE USUAL MANNER! THEN RETURN TO YOUR PATROLS---
...AND CONTINUE TO TAKE INTO CUSTODY ANYONE YOU SUSPECT OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES--- SUCH AS PEACE RALLIES! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
SURE, BOSS! KEEP AMERICA FREE!
THEN, WHEN THE HOODED FIGURE IS ONCE AGAIN ALONE---
CLICK!
WELL, LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING JUST PERFECT IN NEW YORK--- EVEN MORE TROUBLE THAN I EXPECTED!
THE WAY THIS RIOT LOOKS, HUNDREDS OF THOSE COMMIE DUPES'LL BE IN JAIL BEFORE TONIGHT'S OVER! MATTER OF FACT, I'M SURE OF IT!
BUT, FOR A MORE ON-THE-SPOT VIEW OF THE CHAOS IN GOTHAM---
NOW WHERE ARE THEY GOING IN SUCH A HURRY? GOOD TIME TO ROB A BANK---
---BUT THEIR BAGS ARE TOO SMALL FOR MONEY! JUST THE RIGHT SIZE FOR---

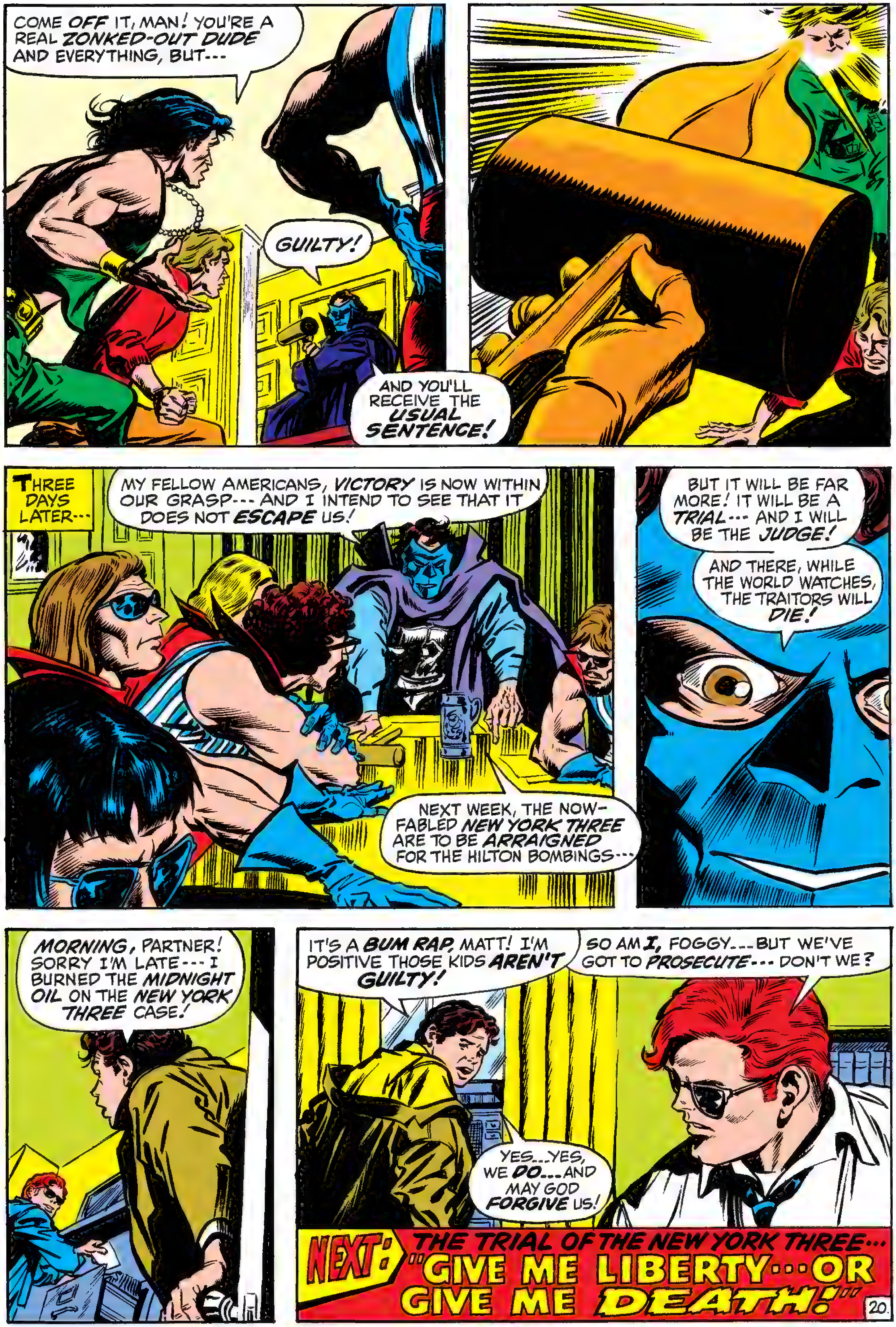

YORK HILTON
EXPLOSIVES!
SORRY TO BE A *PARTY POOPER*, GANG---
--- BUT YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO *KILL* THE VEEP---
---JUST 'CAUSE YOU WERE DUMB ENOUGH TO *BET* ON HIM IN THE *HOPE DESERT CLASSIC!*


YOU--- YOU GOT US ALL *WRONG*, MAN! WE'RE *PATRIOTS!* WE WERE TRYIN' TO---
---SET OFF SOME *FIREWORKS*--- TO *WELCOME* AGNEW, I SUPPOSE!
NICE *TRY*-- BUT IT'S NOT THE *FOURTH OF JULY* YET!
I'LL CLAM 'IM UP, GUYS---
YOU AND WHO ELSE? THE *DOXEE COMPANY*, MAYBE?!
SOK!
NOW---
LIKE THE *DODGE SHERIFF* SAYS---
LET'S GRAB HIM!
KERRAKK!
YOAH IN A HEAP'A *TROUBLE*, BOYS!


ONLY ME *LEFT!* GOTTA MOVE *FAST!* CARRY OUT THE BOSS'S **ORDERS**---
---AND KNOCK OFF **DAREDEVIL** ---ALL WITH ONE **THROW!**
BAROOOM

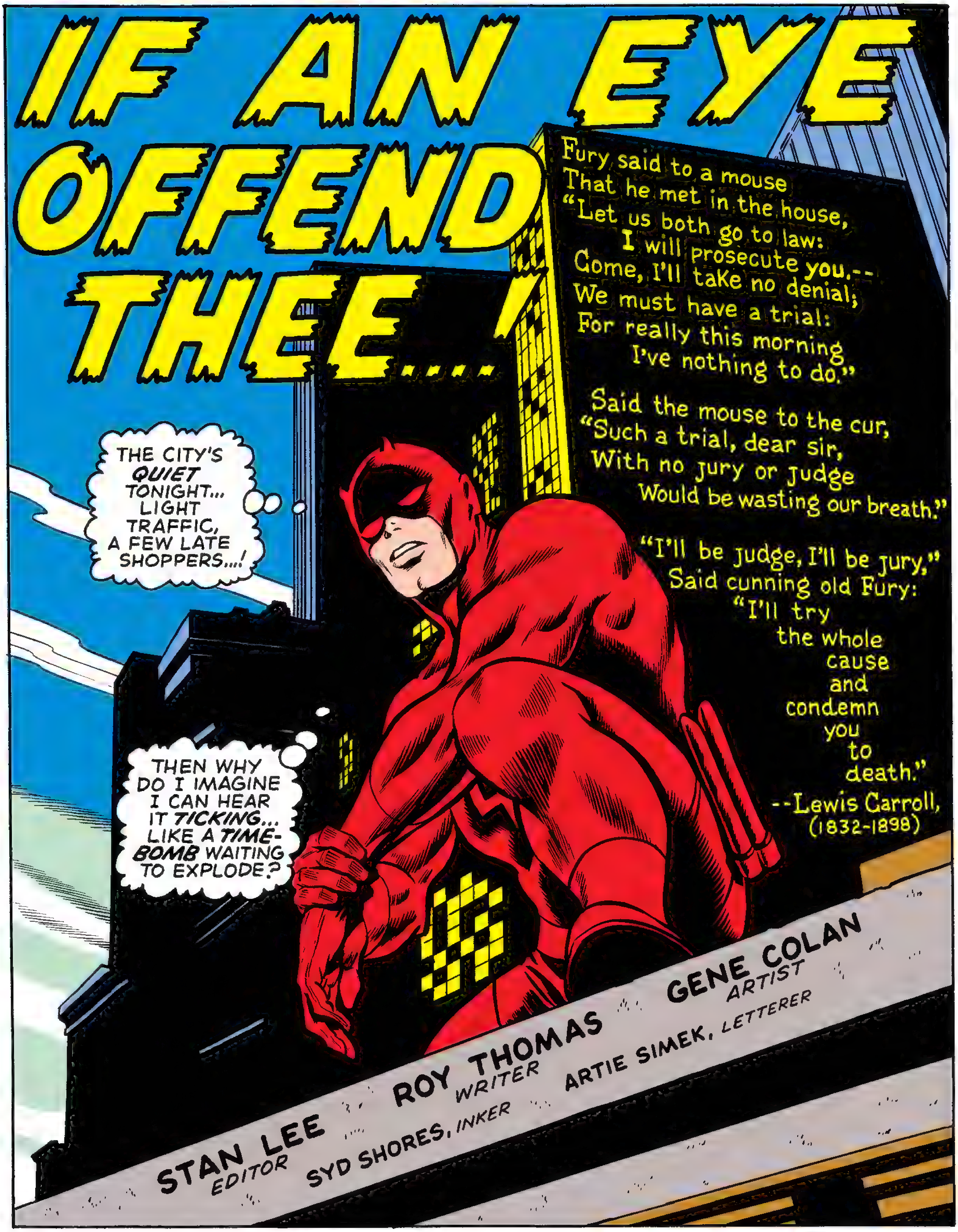

ANOTHER **BOMB**.. SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM AROUND THE **CORNER!**
I THINK YOU'RE **RIGHT,** D.A.! **LET'S GO!**
CONVENT ENT
HEY, IT'S **DAREDEVIL!** THE BLAST MUST'VE **GOT** HIM! YOU **OKAY,** D.D.?
FREEZE, KID! WE'VE GOT YOU **COVERED!**
YOU'RE UNDER **ARREST,** PUNK! MOVE AWAY FROM THE **MASKED MAN!**
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT US A **BOMBER**... LONG HAIR AND **ALL!**
WAIT, OFFICER! YOU'RE MAKING A **MISTAKE!**
THIS BOY WAS ONLY...
YOU'RE GROGGY, DAREDEVIL! **WE'LL** HANDLE THIS!
BUT I DIDN'T **DO** ANYTHING!
BETTER SAVE IT FOR THE **JUDGE,** BUDDY! WE DON'T GO EASY ON **BOMBERS** IN THIS CITY!
I WAS JUST **PASSING BY!** DAREDEVIL WILL TELL YOU THAT, **WON'T** YOU?
NEED AN **AMBULANCE** HERE?
LOOKS LIKE WE **DON'T!** THERE GOES THE **PATIENT!** GUESS **HE** FIGURED YOU WERE GUILTY **TOO,** KID...AND HE DIDN'T AIM TO BE YOUR **ALIBI!**
C'MON! YOU'RE GOIN' TO THE **STATION!**

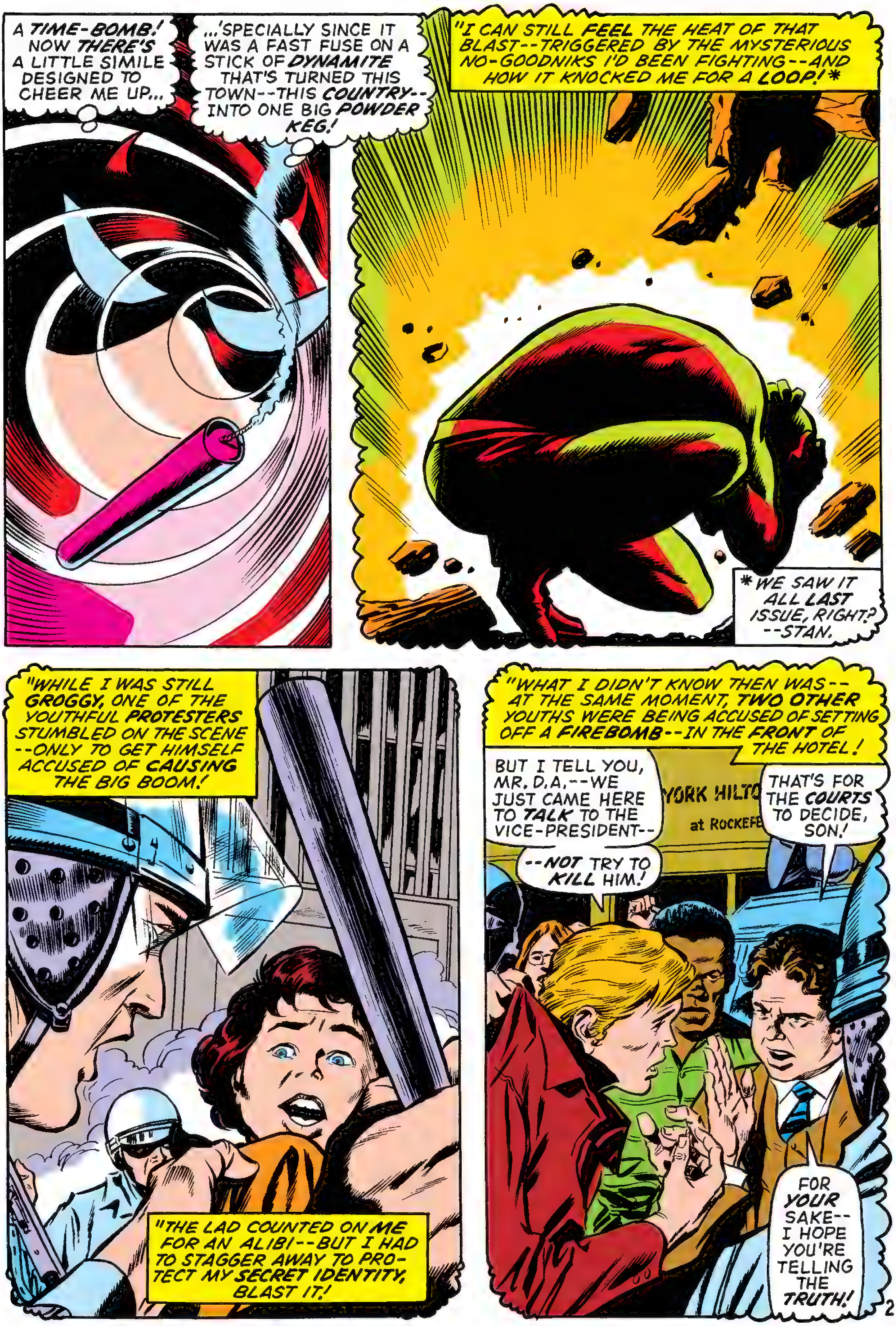

THEY'RE TAKIN' ONE KID *AWAY*, D.A.!
AND HERE ARE *TWO MORE* WE'RE PRETTY SURE WERE *INVOLVED* IN THE BOMBINGS!
HE'S FEEDING YOU A *LINE*, MR. D.A.-- WE WERE *TALKING* TO HIM WHEN THE BOMB WENT OFF!
SAVE IT FOR *LATER*!
ALL RIGHT! WE'LL *DO* THAT, BUT REMEMBER THAT THIS IS *AMERICA*, MAN...
... AND YOU CAN'T CONVICT US BECAUSE WE WERE *HERE*... OR BECAUSE OUR *HAIR* IS LONG!
YOU NEED *EVIDENCE*! AND YOU DON'T HAVE IT-- BECAUSE WE'RE *INNOCENT*!
STILL GROGGY FROM THE *BLAST*! COULDN'T RISK BEING TAKEN TO THE *HOSPITAL*!
THEY MIGHT HAVE *UNMASKED* ME... BUT I HAVE TO HELP THAT *BOY* SOMEHOW!
ONE THING AT A *TIME*, THOUGH!
FIRST I HAVE TO GET INTO THE *OFFICE* AND MEET *FOGGY* WHEN HE ARRIVES--
--AND EXPLAIN HOW *MATT* COULDN'T CATCH A CAB TO THE *HILTON*!
WHILE, IN *CALIFORNIA*...
EVIDENCE? YOU DARE SPEAK TO ME OF *EVIDENCE?* I HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT I *NEED*!
YOU STAND CHARGED WITH *TREASON*... MAKING ANTI-WAR SPEECHES IN *PUBLIC*! NOW HOW DO YOU *PLEAD*... AS IF IT *MATTERED*!

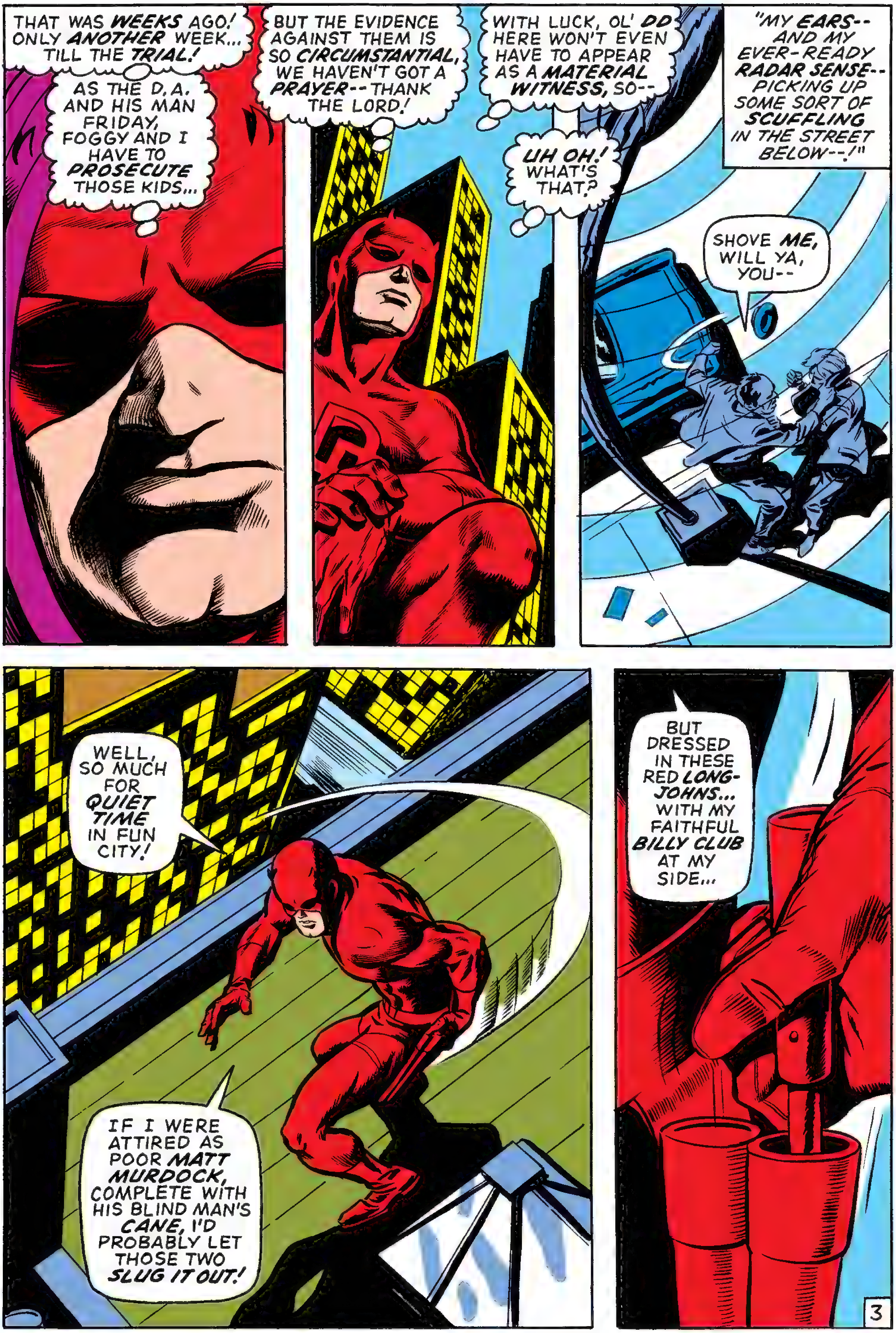

COME *OFF* IT, MAN! YOU'RE A REAL *ZONKED-OUT DUDE* AND EVERYTHING, BUT---
GUILTY!
AND YOU'LL RECEIVE THE *USUAL SENTENCE!*
THREE DAYS LATER---
MY FELLOW AMERICANS, *VICTORY* IS NOW WITHIN OUR GRASP--- AND I INTEND TO SEE THAT IT DOES NOT *ESCAPE* US!
NEXT WEEK, THE NOW-FABLED *NEW YORK THREE* ARE TO BE *ARRAIGNED* FOR THE HILTON BOMBINGS---
BUT IT WILL BE FAR MORE! IT WILL BE A *TRIAL*--- AND I WILL BE THE *JUDGE!*
AND THERE, WHILE THE WORLD WATCHES, THE TRAITORS WILL *DIE!*
MORNING, PARTNER! SORRY I'M LATE--- I BURNED THE *MIDNIGHT OIL* ON THE *NEW YORK THREE* CASE!
IT'S A *BUM RAP*, MATT! I'M POSITIVE THOSE KIDS *AREN'T GUILTY!*
SO AM *I*, FOGGY... BUT WE'VE GOT TO *PROSECUTE*--- DON'T WE?
YES... YES, WE *DO*... AND MAY GOD *FORGIVE* US!
NEXT: THE TRIAL OF THE NEW YORK THREE... "GIVE ME LIBERTY... OR GIVE ME *DEATH!*"
20

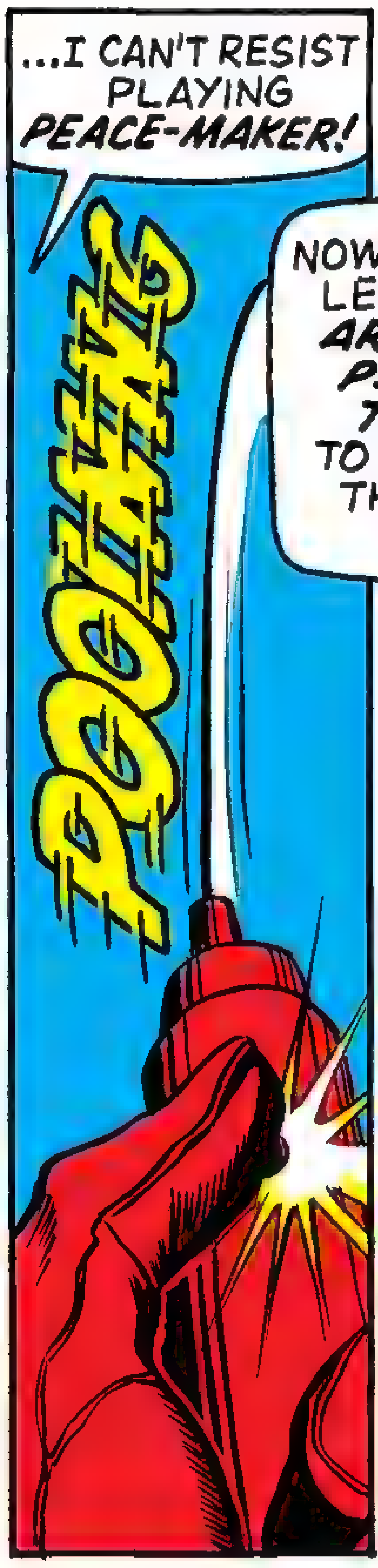
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
71
DEC
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN W OUT
THE TRIBUNE FINDS DAREDEVIL GUILTY--
AND THE SENTENCE IS-- DEATH!
IF AN EYE OFFEND THEE--

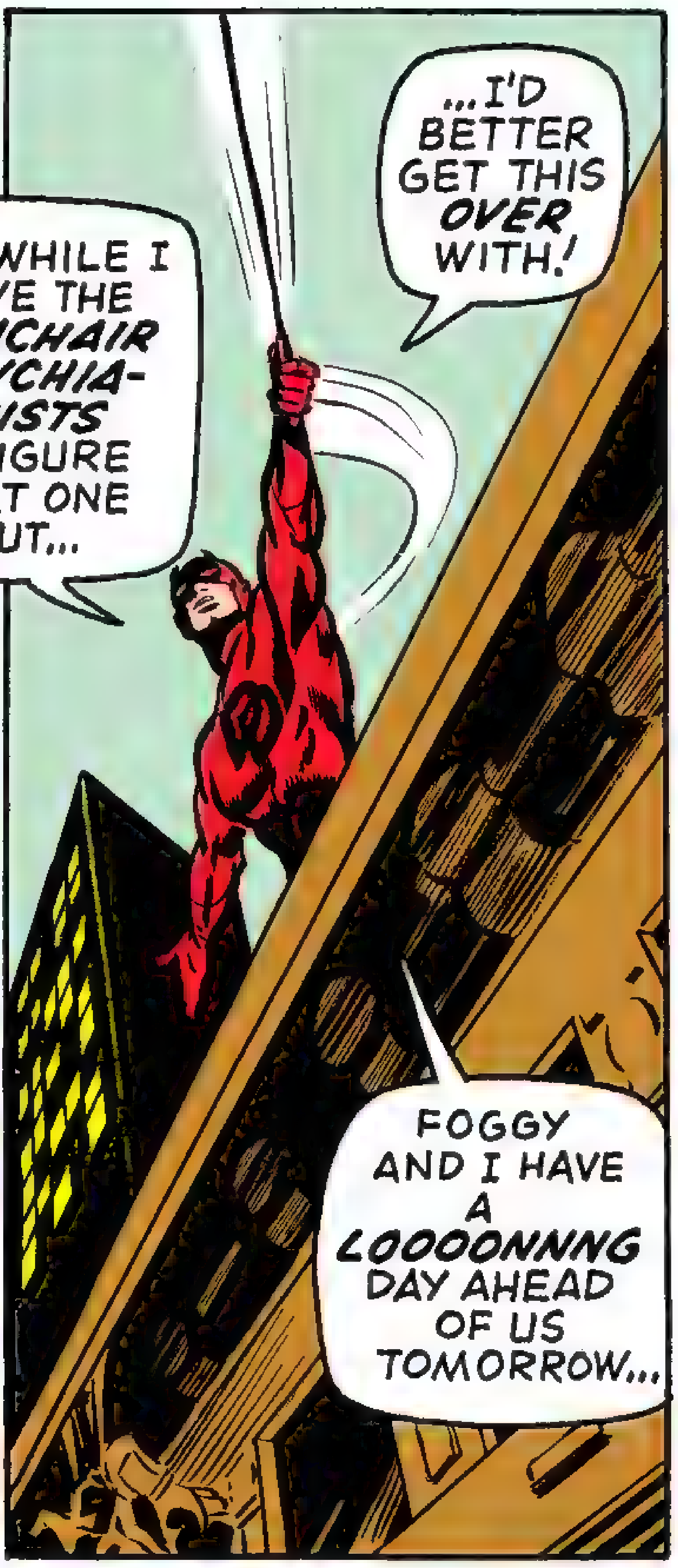
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

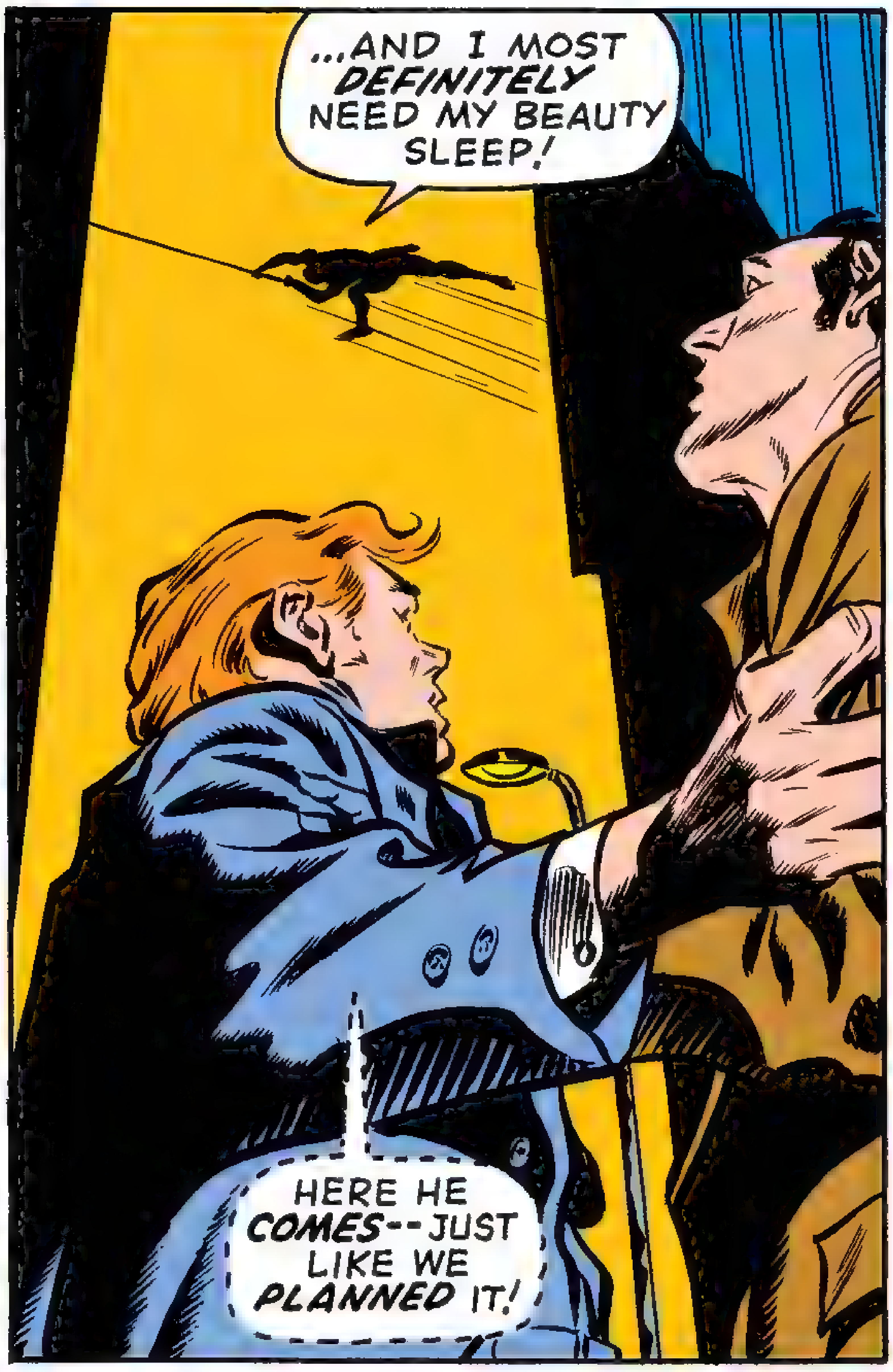

IF AN EYE OFFEND THEE....!
Fury said to a mouse
That he met in the house,
"Let us both go to law:
I will prosecute you.--
Come, I'll take no denial;
We must have a trial:
For really this morning
I've nothing to do."
Said the mouse to the cur,
"Such a trial, dear sir,
With no jury or judge
Would be wasting our breath."
"I'll be judge, I'll be jury,"
Said cunning old Fury:
"I'll try the whole cause and condemn you to death."
--Lewis Carroll, (1832-1898)
THE CITY'S *QUIET* TONIGHT... LIGHT TRAFFIC, A FEW LATE SHOPPERS...!
THEN WHY DO I IMAGINE I CAN HEAR IT *TICKING*... LIKE A *TIME-BOMB* WAITING TO EXPLODE?
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES, INKER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

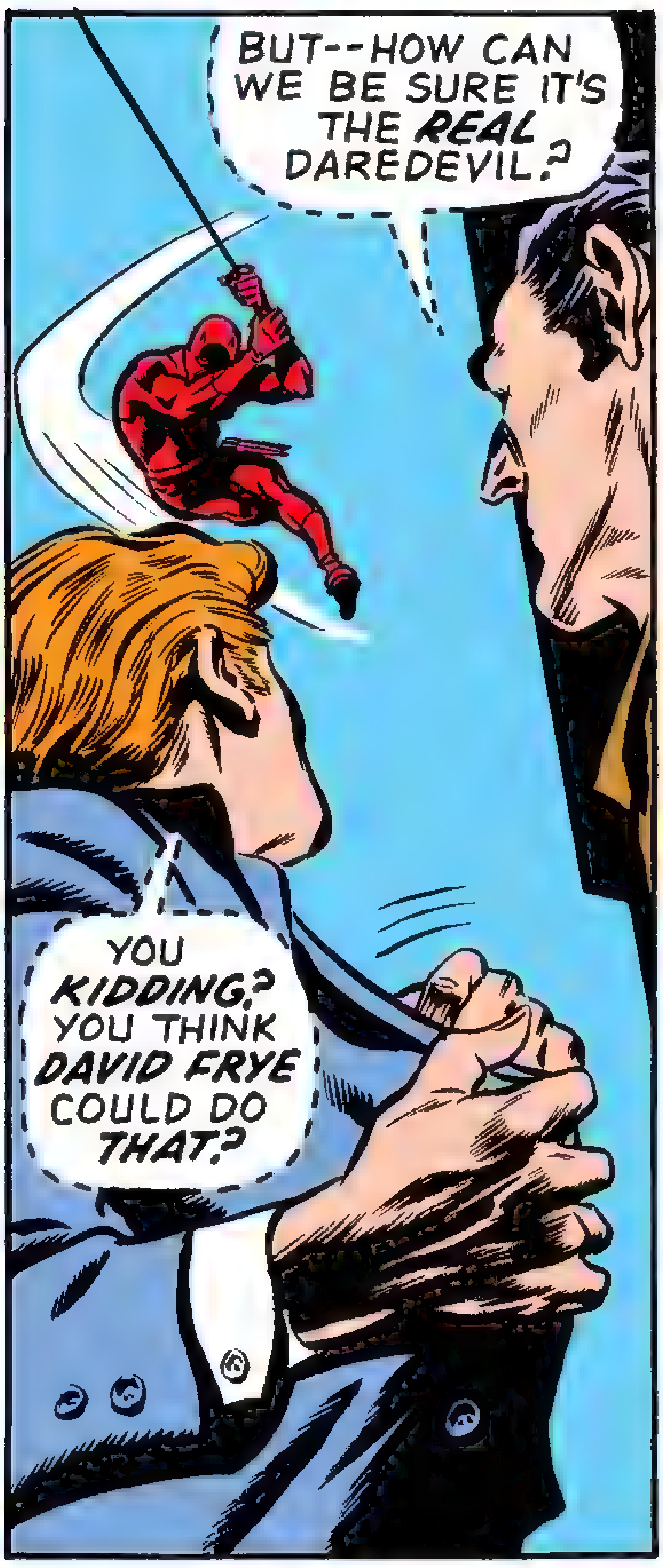

A TIME-BOMB! NOW THERE'S A LITTLE SIMILE DESIGNED TO CHEER ME UP...
...'SPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS A FAST FUSE ON A STICK OF DYNAMITE THAT'S TURNED THIS TOWN--THIS COUNTRY--INTO ONE BIG POWDER KEG!
"I CAN STILL FEEL THE HEAT OF THAT BLAST--TRIGGERED BY THE MYSTERIOUS NO-GOODNIKS I'D BEEN FIGHTING--AND HOW IT KNOCKED ME FOR A LOOP!*
*WE SAW IT ALL LAST ISSUE, RIGHT? --STAN.
"WHILE I WAS STILL GROGGY, ONE OF THE YOUTHFUL PROTESTERS STUMBLED ON THE SCENE --ONLY TO GET HIMSELF ACCUSED OF CAUSING THE BIG BOOM!
"THE LAD COUNTED ON ME FOR AN ALIBI--BUT I HAD TO STAGGER AWAY TO PROTECT MY SECRET IDENTITY, BLAST IT!
"WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW THEN WAS--AT THE SAME MOMENT, TWO OTHER YOUTHS WERE BEING ACCUSED OF SETTING OFF A FIREBOMB--IN THE FRONT OF THE HOTEL!
BUT I TELL YOU, MR. D.A.--WE JUST CAME HERE TO TALK TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT--
--NOT TRY TO KILL HIM!
YORK HILTO
at ROCKEFE
THAT'S FOR THE COURTS TO DECIDE, SON!
FOR YOUR SAKE--I HOPE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH!

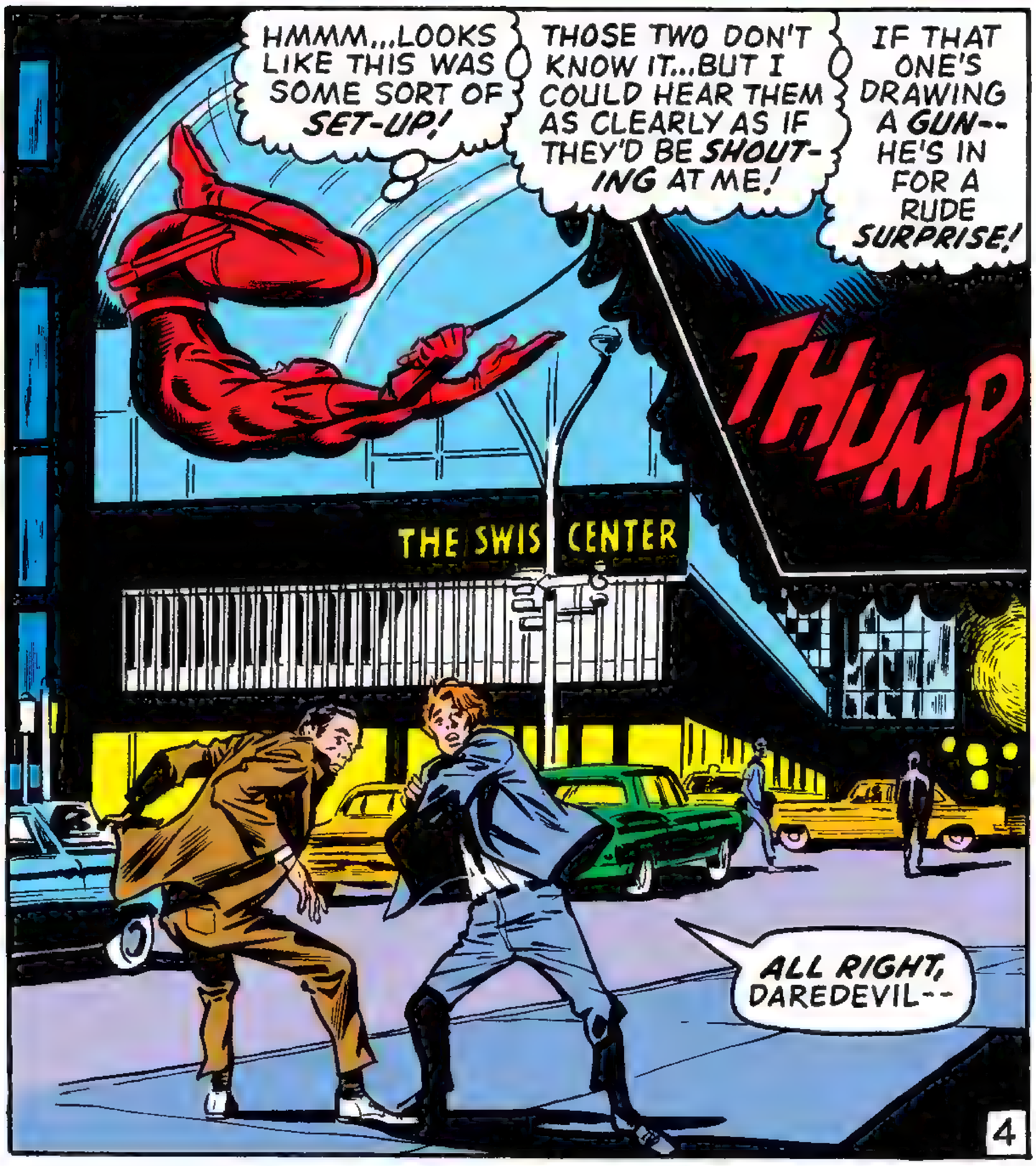

THAT WAS *WEEKS* AGO! ONLY *ANOTHER* WEEK... TILL THE *TRIAL!*
AS THE D.A. AND HIS MAN FRIDAY, FOGGY AND I HAVE TO *PROSECUTE* THOSE KIDS...
BUT THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM IS SO *CIRCUMSTANTIAL*, WE HAVEN'T GOT A *PRAYER*-- THANK THE LORD!
WITH LUCK, OL' *DD* HERE WON'T EVEN HAVE TO APPEAR AS A *MATERIAL WITNESS*, SO--
UH OH! WHAT'S THAT?
"MY *EARS*-- AND MY EVER-READY *RADAR SENSE*-- PICKING UP SOME SORT OF *SCUFFLING* IN THE STREET BELOW--!"
SHOVE *ME*, WILL YA, YOU--
WELL, SO MUCH FOR *QUIET TIME* IN FUN CITY!
IF I WERE ATTIRED AS POOR *MATT MURDOCK*, COMPLETE WITH HIS BLIND MAN'S *CANE*, I'D PROBABLY LET THOSE TWO *SLUG IT OUT!*
BUT DRESSED IN THESE RED *LONG-JOHNS*... WITH MY FAITHFUL *BILLY CLUB* AT MY SIDE...

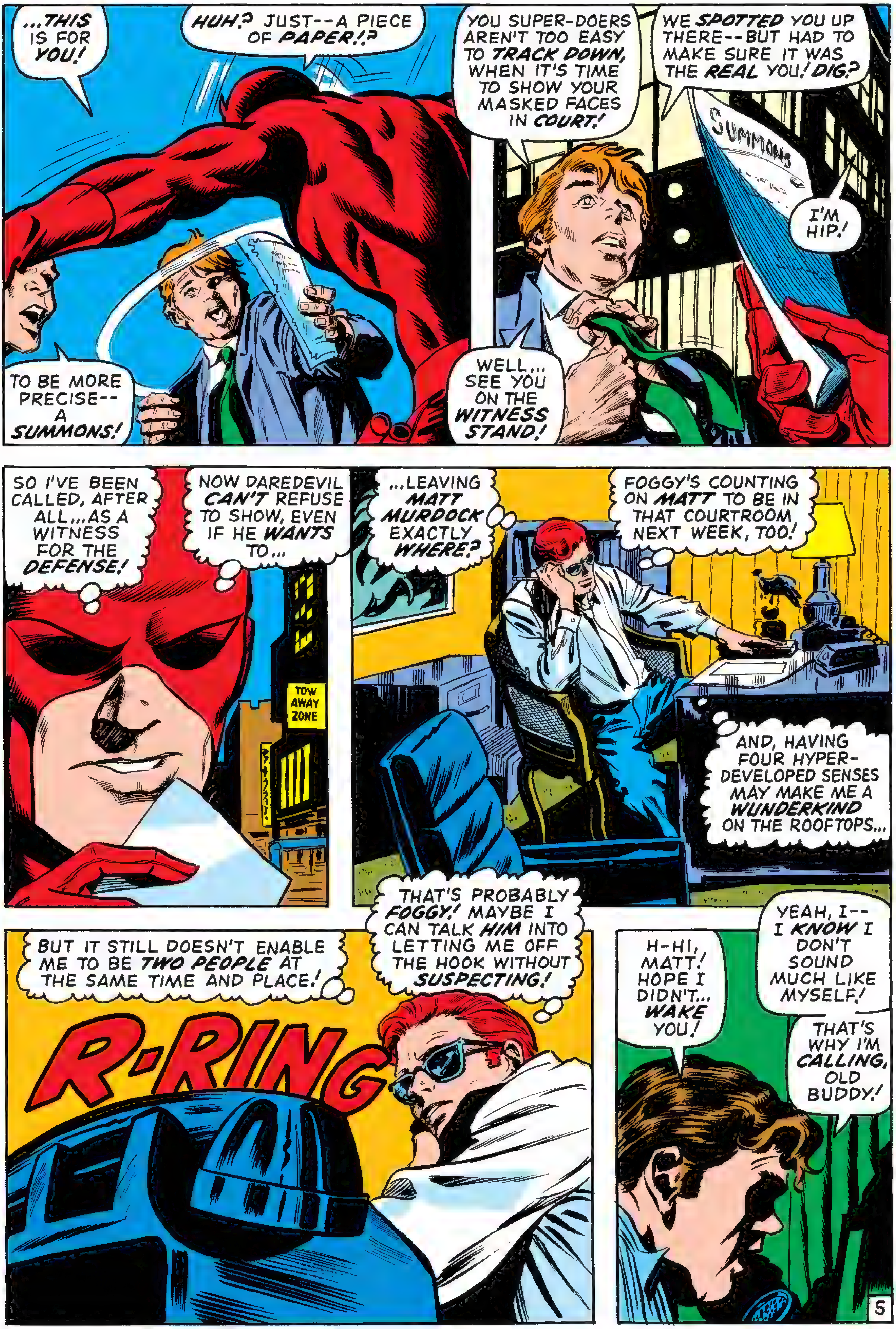

...I CAN'T RESIST PLAYING PEACE-MAKER!
POOOING

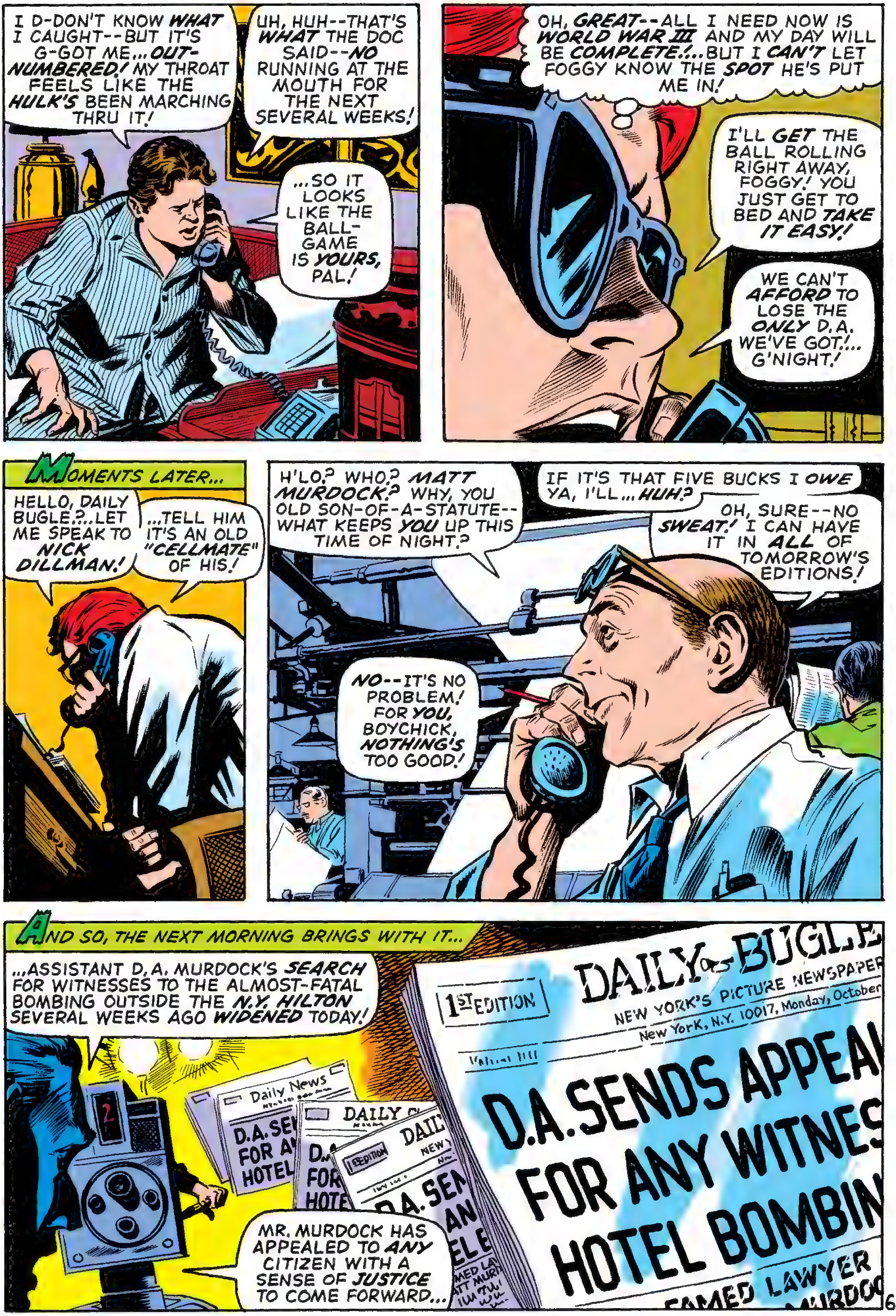

NOW, WHILE I LEAVE THE ARMCHAIR PSYCHIATRISTS TO FIGURE THAT ONE OUT...
...I'D BETTER GET THIS OVER WITH!
FOGGY AND I HAVE A LOOOONNNG DAY AHEAD OF US TOMORROW...

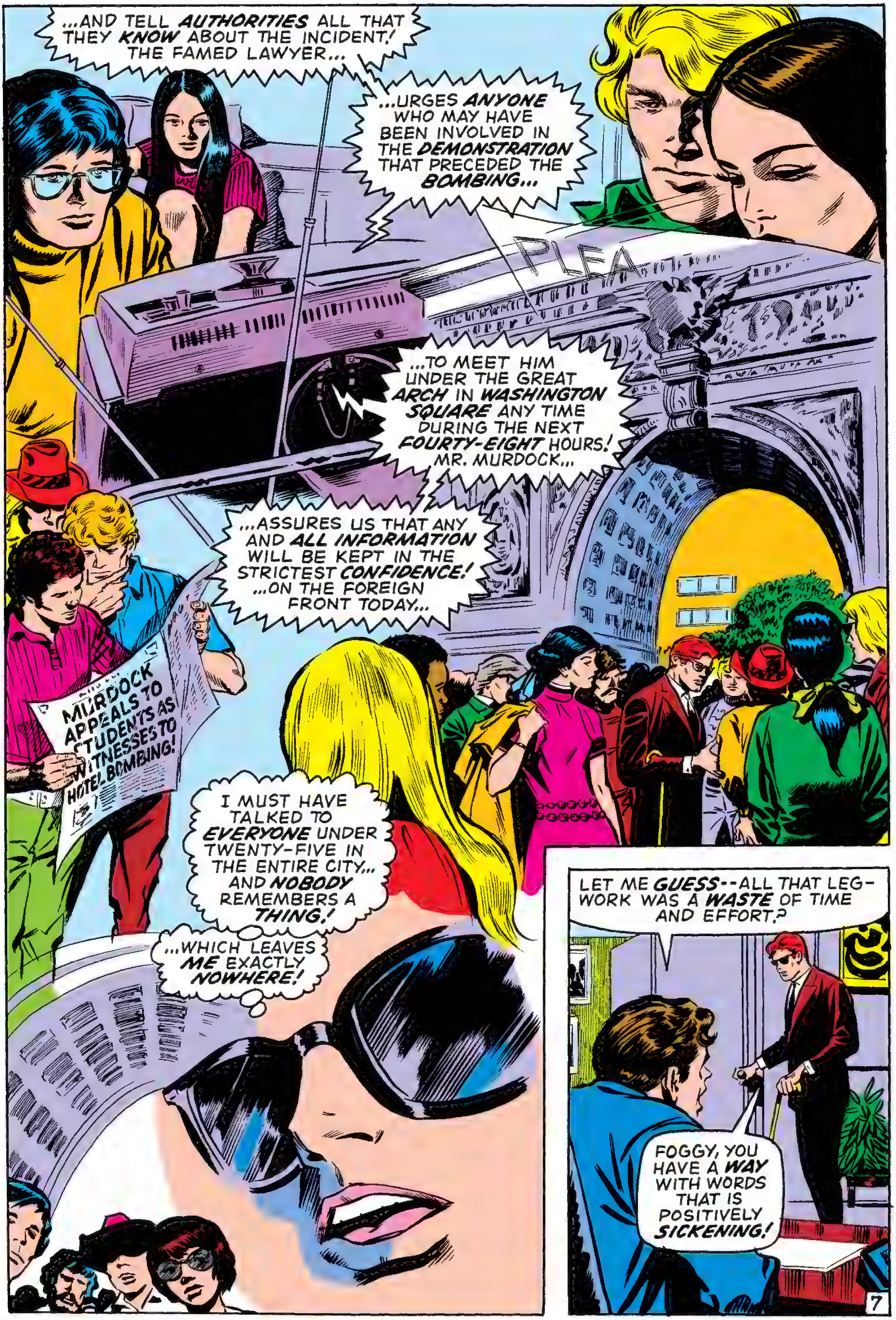

...AND I MOST DEFINITELY NEED MY BEAUTY SLEEP!
HERE HE COMES--JUST LIKE WE PLANNED IT!

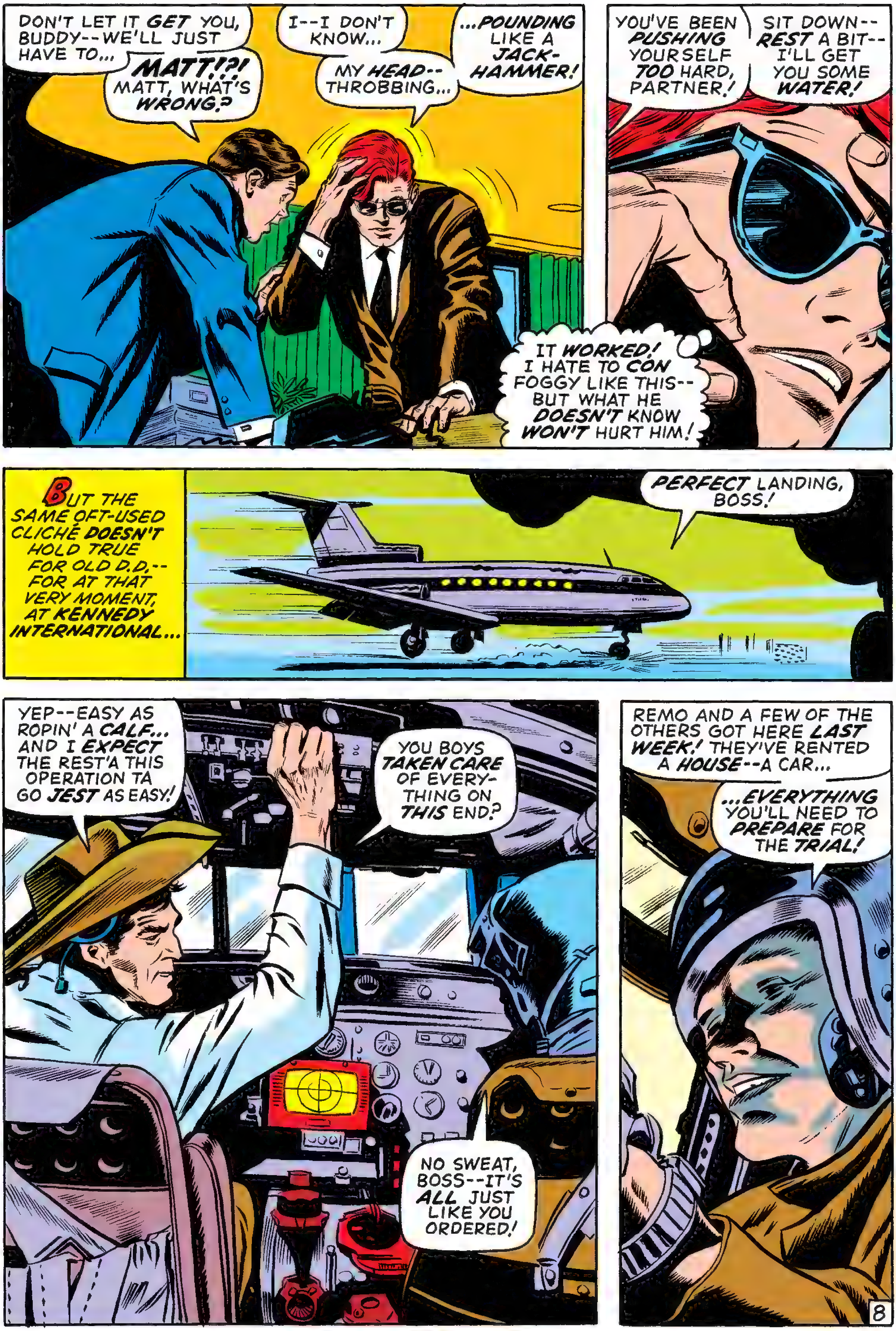

BUT--HOW CAN WE BE SURE IT'S THE REAL DAREDEVIL?
YOU KIDDING? YOU THINK DAVID FRYE COULD DO THAT?

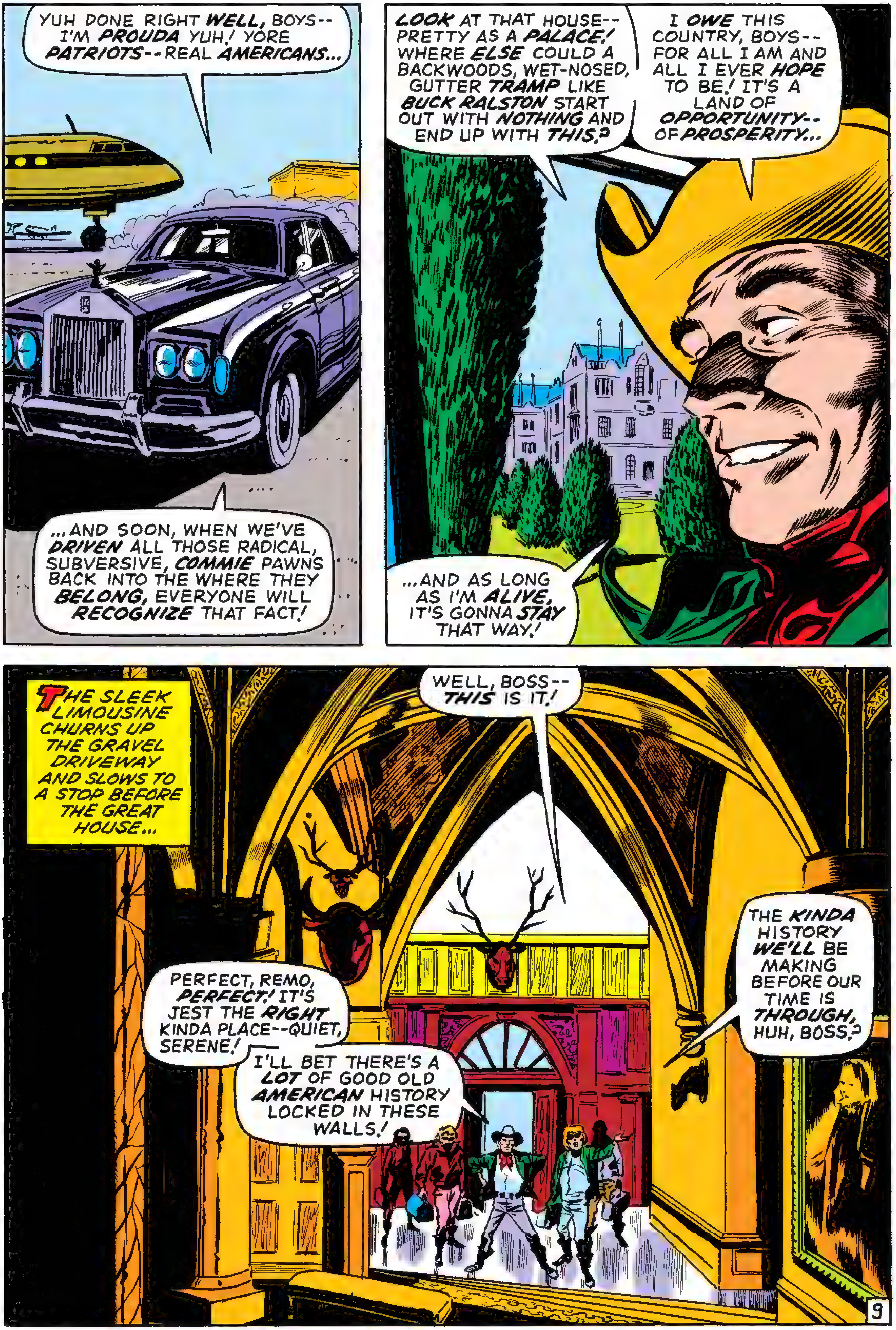

HMMM...LOOKS LIKE THIS WAS SOME SORT OF SET-UP!
THOSE TWO DON'T KNOW IT...BUT I COULD HEAR THEM AS CLEARLY AS IF THEY'D BE SHOUTING AT ME!
IF THAT ONE'S DRAWING A GUN--HE'S IN FOR A RUDE SURPRISE!
THUMP
THE SWIS CENTER
ALL RIGHT, DAREDEVIL--

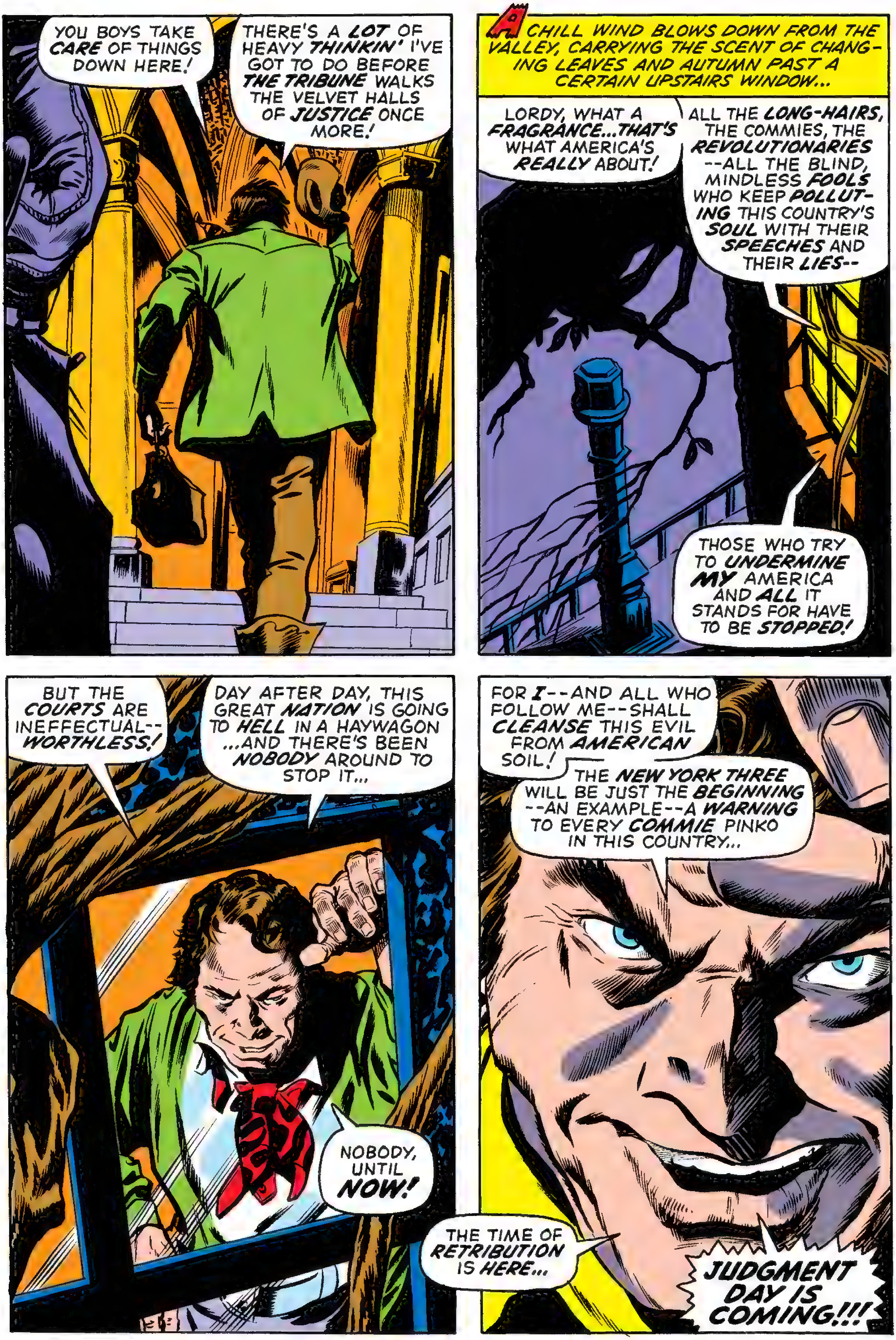

...THIS IS FOR YOU!
HUH?! JUST--A PIECE OF PAPER!?
TO BE MORE PRECISE-- A SUMMONS!
YOU SUPER-DOERS AREN'T TOO EASY TO TRACK DOWN, WHEN IT'S TIME TO SHOW YOUR MASKED FACES IN COURT!
WE SPOTTED YOU UP THERE--BUT HAD TO MAKE SURE IT WAS THE REAL YOU! DIG?
SUMMONS
I'M HIP!
WELL... SEE YOU ON THE WITNESS STAND!
SO I'VE BEEN CALLED, AFTER ALL...AS A WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE!
NOW DAREDEVIL CAN'T REFUSE TO SHOW, EVEN IF HE WANTS TO...
TOW AWAY ZONE
...LEAVING MATT MURDOCK EXACTLY WHERE?
FOGGY'S COUNTING ON MATT TO BE IN THAT COURTROOM NEXT WEEK, TOO!
AND, HAVING FOUR HYPER-DEVELOPED SENSES MAY MAKE ME A WUNDERKIND ON THE ROOFTOPS...
BUT IT STILL DOESN'T ENABLE ME TO BE TWO PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE!
THAT'S PROBABLY FOGGY! MAYBE I CAN TALK HIM INTO LETTING ME OFF THE HOOK WITHOUT SUSPECTING!
R-RING
H-HI, MATT! HOPE I DIDN'T... WAKE YOU!
YEAH, I-- I KNOW I DON'T SOUND MUCH LIKE MYSELF!
THAT'S WHY I'M CALLING, OLD BUDDY!

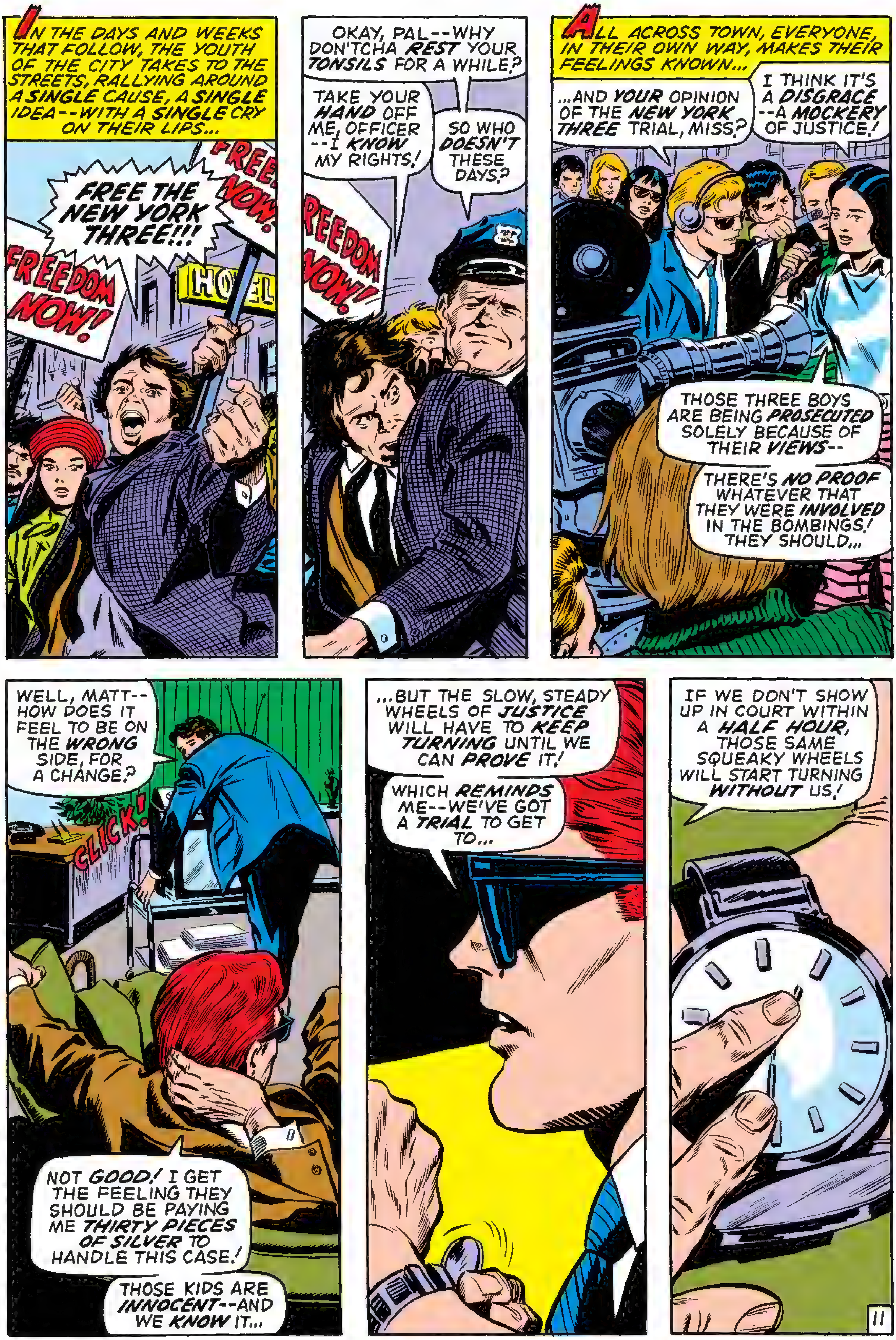

I D-DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I CAUGHT--BUT IT'S G-GOT ME... *OUT-NUMBERED!* MY THROAT FEELS LIKE THE *HULK'S* BEEN MARCHING THRU IT!
UH, HUH--THAT'S *WHAT* THE DOC SAID--*NO* RUNNING AT THE MOUTH FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS!
...SO IT LOOKS LIKE THE BALL-GAME IS *YOURS,* PAL!
OH, *GREAT*--ALL I NEED NOW IS *WORLD WAR III* AND MY DAY WILL BE *COMPLETE!*...BUT I *CAN'T* LET FOGGY KNOW THE *SPOT* HE'S PUT ME IN!
I'LL *GET* THE BALL ROLLING RIGHT AWAY, FOGGY! YOU JUST GET TO BED AND *TAKE IT EASY!*
WE CAN'T *AFFORD* TO LOSE THE *ONLY* D.A. WE'VE GOT!... G'NIGHT!
MOMENTS LATER...
HELLO, DAILY BUGLE?...LET ME SPEAK TO *NICK DILLMAN!*
...TELL HIM IT'S AN OLD *"CELLMATE"* OF HIS!
H'LO? WHO? *MATT MURDOCK?* WHY, YOU OLD SON-OF-A-STATUTE--WHAT KEEPS *YOU* UP THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
IF IT'S THAT FIVE BUCKS I *OWE* YA, I'LL... *HUH?*
OH, SURE--NO *SWEAT!* I CAN HAVE IT IN *ALL* OF TOMORROW'S EDITIONS!
NO--IT'S NO PROBLEM! FOR *YOU,* BOYCHICK, *NOTHING'S* TOO GOOD!
AND SO, THE NEXT MORNING BRINGS WITH IT...
...ASSISTANT D.A. MURDOCK'S *SEARCH* FOR WITNESSES TO THE ALMOST-FATAL BOMBING OUTSIDE THE *N.Y. HILTON* SEVERAL WEEKS AGO *WIDENED* TODAY!
MR. MURDOCK HAS APPEALED TO *ANY* CITIZEN WITH A SENSE OF *JUSTICE* TO COME FORWARD...
Daily News
DAILY
1ST EDITION
DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
New York, N.Y. 10017, Monday, October
D.A. SENDS APPEA
FOR ANY WITNES
HOTEL BOMBIN
FAMED LAWYER
MURDOC

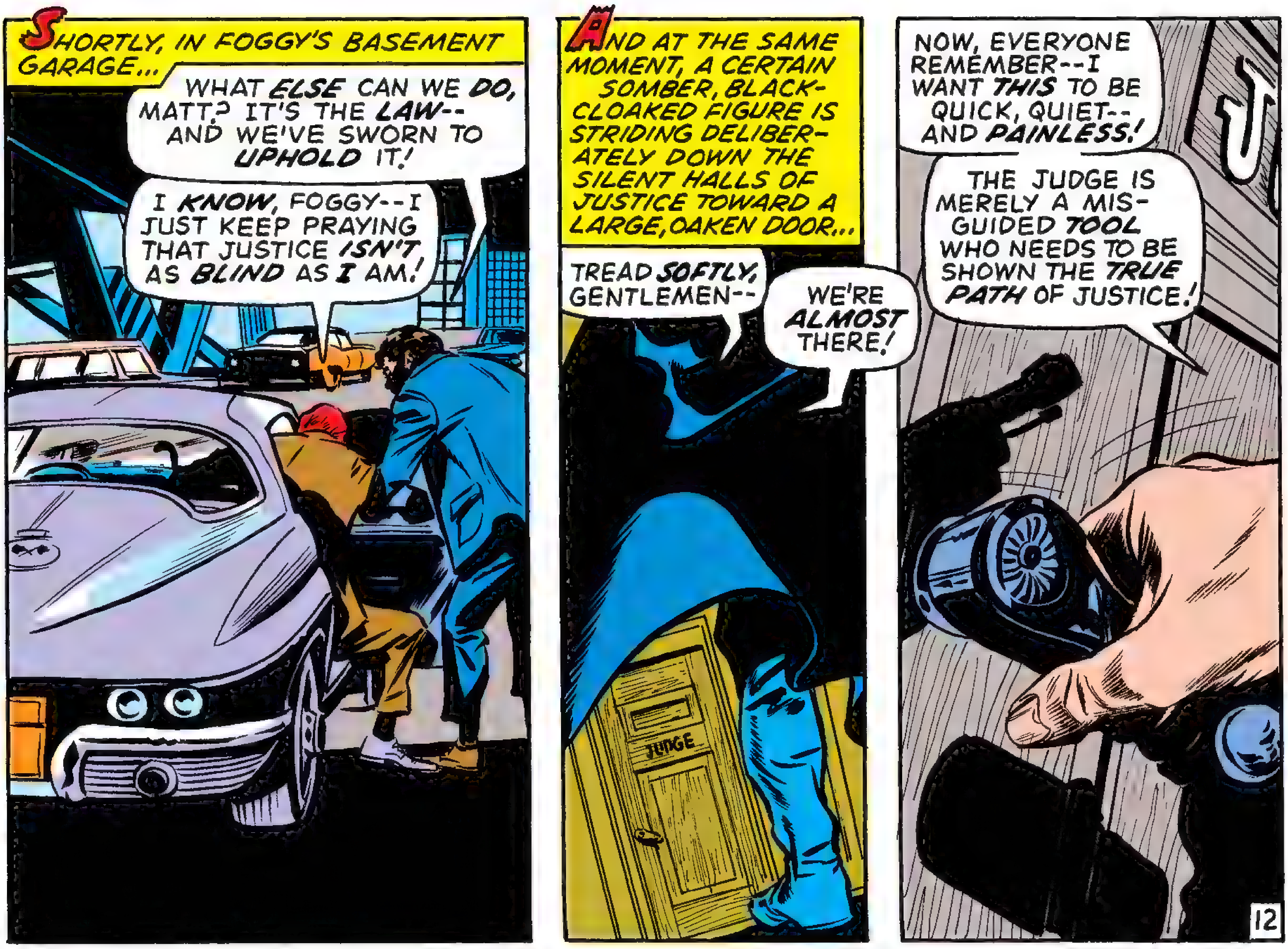

...AND TELL AUTHORITIES ALL THAT THEY KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT! THE FAMED LAWYER...
...URGES ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DEMONSTRATION THAT PRECEDED THE BOMBING...
PLEA
...TO MEET HIM UNDER THE GREAT ARCH IN WASHINGTON SQUARE ANY TIME DURING THE NEXT FOURTY-EIGHT HOURS! MR. MURDOCK...
...ASSURES US THAT ANY AND ALL INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE! ...ON THE FOREIGN FRONT TODAY...
MURDOCK APPEALS TO STUDENTS AS WITNESSES TO HOTEL BOMBING!
I MUST HAVE TALKED TO EVERYONE UNDER TWENTY-FIVE IN THE ENTIRE CITY... AND NOBODY REMEMBERS A THING!
...WHICH LEAVES ME EXACTLY NOWHERE!
LET ME GUESS--ALL THAT LEG-WORK WAS A WASTE OF TIME AND EFFORT?
FOGGY, YOU HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS THAT IS POSITIVELY SICKENING!

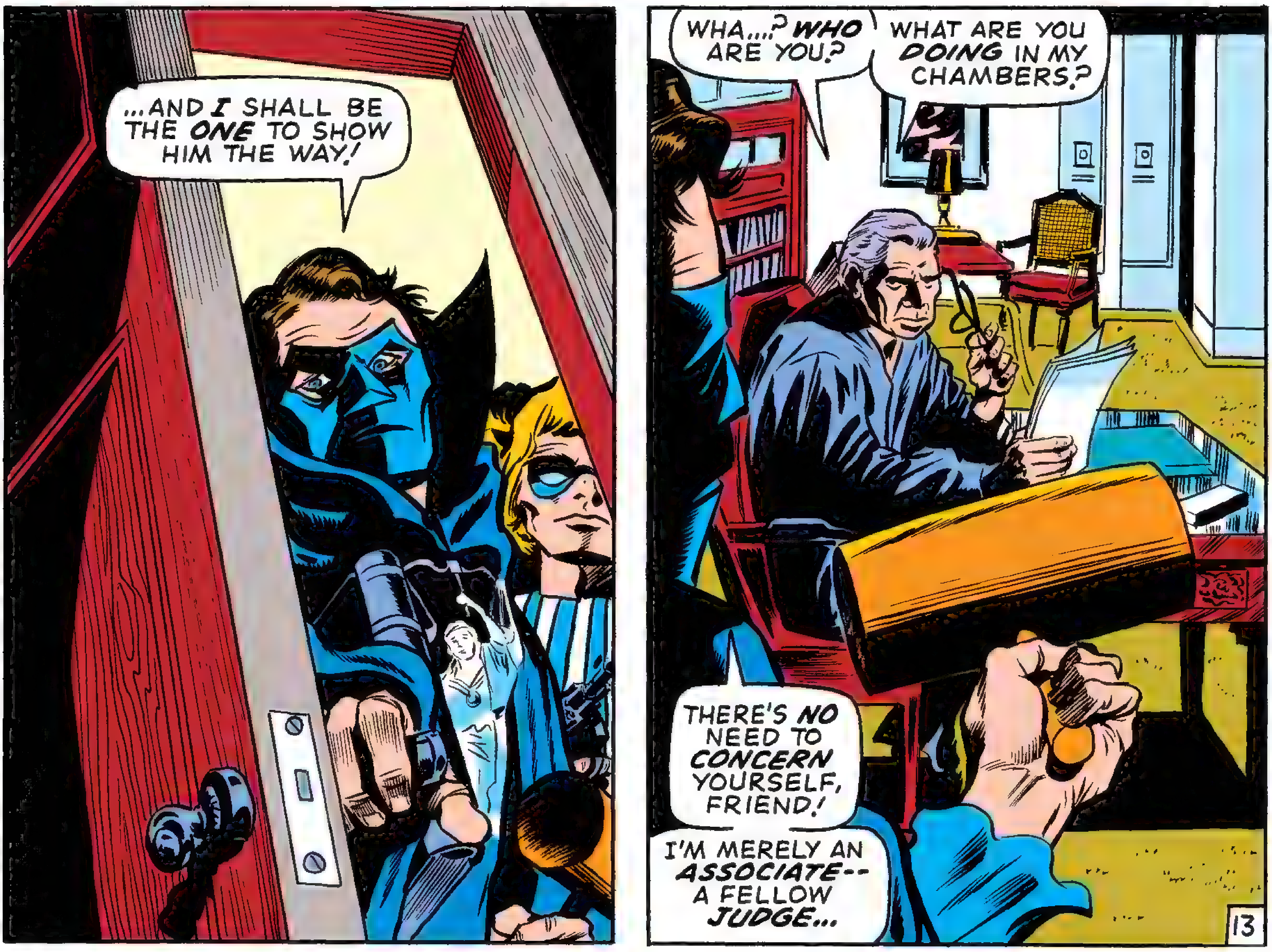

DON'T LET IT **GET** YOU, BUDDY--WE'LL JUST HAVE TO...
MATT!?! MATT, WHAT'S **WRONG?**
I--I DON'T KNOW...
MY **HEAD**--THROBBING...
...**POUNDING** LIKE A **JACK-HAMMER!**
YOU'VE BEEN **PUSHING** YOURSELF **TOO** HARD, PARTNER!
SIT DOWN--**REST** A BIT--I'LL GET YOU SOME **WATER!**
IT **WORKED!** I HATE TO **CON** FOGGY LIKE THIS--BUT WHAT HE **DOESN'T** KNOW **WON'T** HURT HIM!
*BUT THE SAME OFT-USED CLICHÉ **DOESN'T** HOLD TRUE FOR OLD D.D.--FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AT **KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL**...*
PERFECT LANDING, BOSS!
YEP--EASY AS ROPIN' A **CALF**... AND I **EXPECT** THE REST'A THIS OPERATION TA GO **JEST** AS EASY!
YOU BOYS **TAKEN CARE** OF EVERYTHING ON **THIS** END?
NO SWEAT, BOSS--IT'S **ALL** JUST LIKE YOU ORDERED!
REMO AND A FEW OF THE OTHERS GOT HERE **LAST WEEK!** THEY'VE RENTED A **HOUSE**--A CAR...
...**EVERYTHING** YOU'LL NEED TO **PREPARE** FOR THE **TRIAL!**

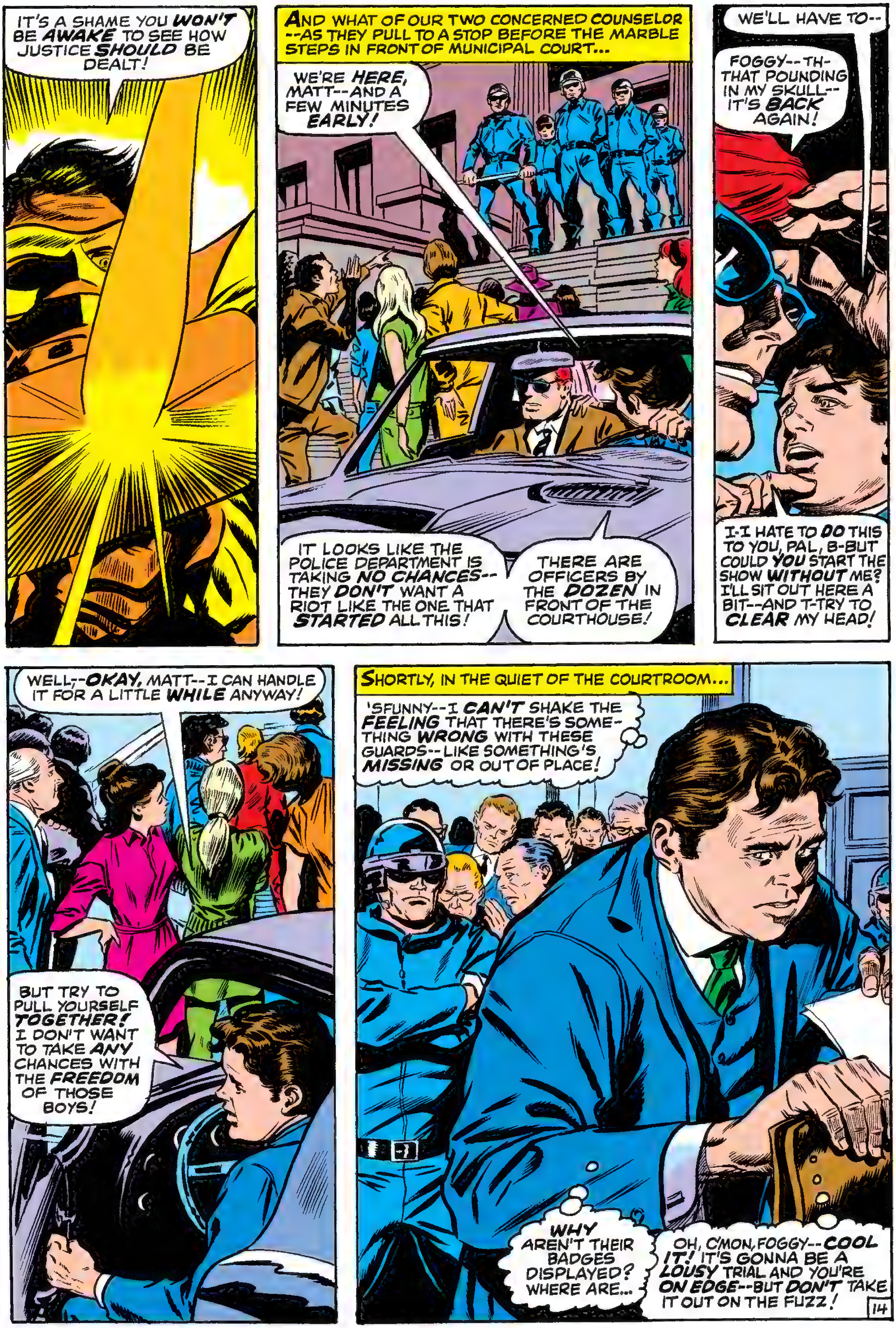

YUH DONE RIGHT **WELL,** BOYS-- I'M **PROUDA** YUH! YORE **PATRIOTS**--REAL **AMERICANS...**
...AND SOON, WHEN WE'VE **DRIVEN** ALL THOSE RADICAL, SUBVERSIVE, **COMMIE** PAWNS BACK INTO THE WHERE THEY **BELONG,** EVERYONE WILL **RECOGNIZE** THAT FACT!
LOOK AT THAT HOUSE-- PRETTY AS A **PALACE!** WHERE **ELSE** COULD A BACKWOODS, WET-NOSED, GUTTER **TRAMP** LIKE **BUCK RALSTON** START OUT WITH **NOTHING** AND END UP WITH **THIS?**
I **OWE** THIS COUNTRY, BOYS-- FOR ALL I AM AND ALL I EVER **HOPE** TO BE! IT'S A LAND OF **OPPORTUNITY**-- OF **PROSPERITY...**
...AND AS LONG AS I'M **ALIVE,** IT'S GONNA **STAY** THAT WAY!
THE SLEEK LIMOUSINE CHURNS UP THE GRAVEL DRIVEWAY AND SLOWS TO A STOP BEFORE THE GREAT HOUSE...
WELL, BOSS-- **THIS** IS IT!
PERFECT, REMO, **PERFECT!** IT'S JEST THE **RIGHT** KINDA PLACE--QUIET, SERENE!
I'LL BET THERE'S A **LOT** OF GOOD OLD **AMERICAN** HISTORY LOCKED IN THESE WALLS!
THE **KINDA** HISTORY **WE'LL** BE MAKING BEFORE OUR TIME IS **THROUGH,** HUH, BOSS?

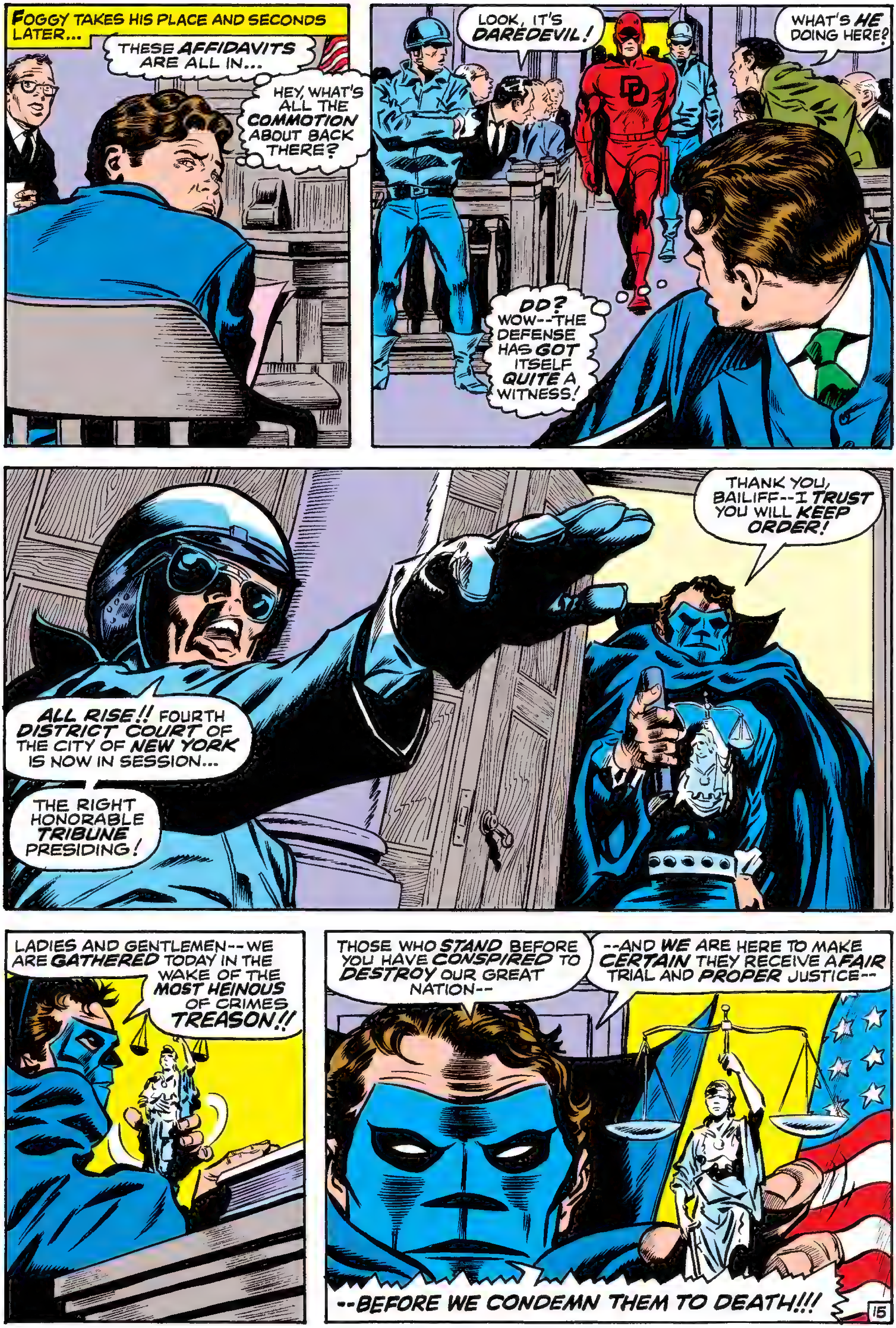

YOU BOYS TAKE **CARE** OF THINGS DOWN HERE!
THERE'S A **LOT** OF HEAVY **THINKIN'** I'VE GOT TO DO BEFORE **THE TRIBUNE** WALKS THE VELVET HALLS OF **JUSTICE** ONCE MORE!
A CHILL WIND BLOWS DOWN FROM THE VALLEY, CARRYING THE SCENT OF CHANGING LEAVES AND AUTUMN PAST A CERTAIN UPSTAIRS WINDOW...
LORDY, WHAT A **FRAGRANCE...THAT'S** WHAT AMERICA'S **REALLY** ABOUT!
ALL THE **LONG-HAIRS,** THE COMMIES, THE **REVOLUTIONARIES** --ALL THE BLIND, MINDLESS **FOOLS** WHO KEEP **POLLUTING** THIS COUNTRY'S **SOUL** WITH THEIR **SPEECHES** AND THEIR **LIES**--
THOSE WHO TRY TO **UNDERMINE MY** AMERICA AND **ALL** IT STANDS FOR HAVE TO BE **STOPPED!**
BUT THE **COURTS** ARE INEFFECTUAL-- **WORTHLESS!**
DAY AFTER DAY, THIS GREAT **NATION** IS GOING TO **HELL** IN A HAYWAGON ...AND THERE'S BEEN **NOBODY** AROUND TO STOP IT...
NOBODY, UNTIL **NOW!**
FOR **I**--AND ALL WHO FOLLOW ME--SHALL **CLEANSE** THIS EVIL FROM **AMERICAN** SOIL!
THE **NEW YORK THREE** WILL BE JUST THE **BEGINNING** --AN EXAMPLE--A **WARNING** TO EVERY **COMMIE** PINKO IN THIS COUNTRY...
THE TIME OF **RETRIBUTION** IS **HERE...**
JUDGMENT DAY IS COMING!!!

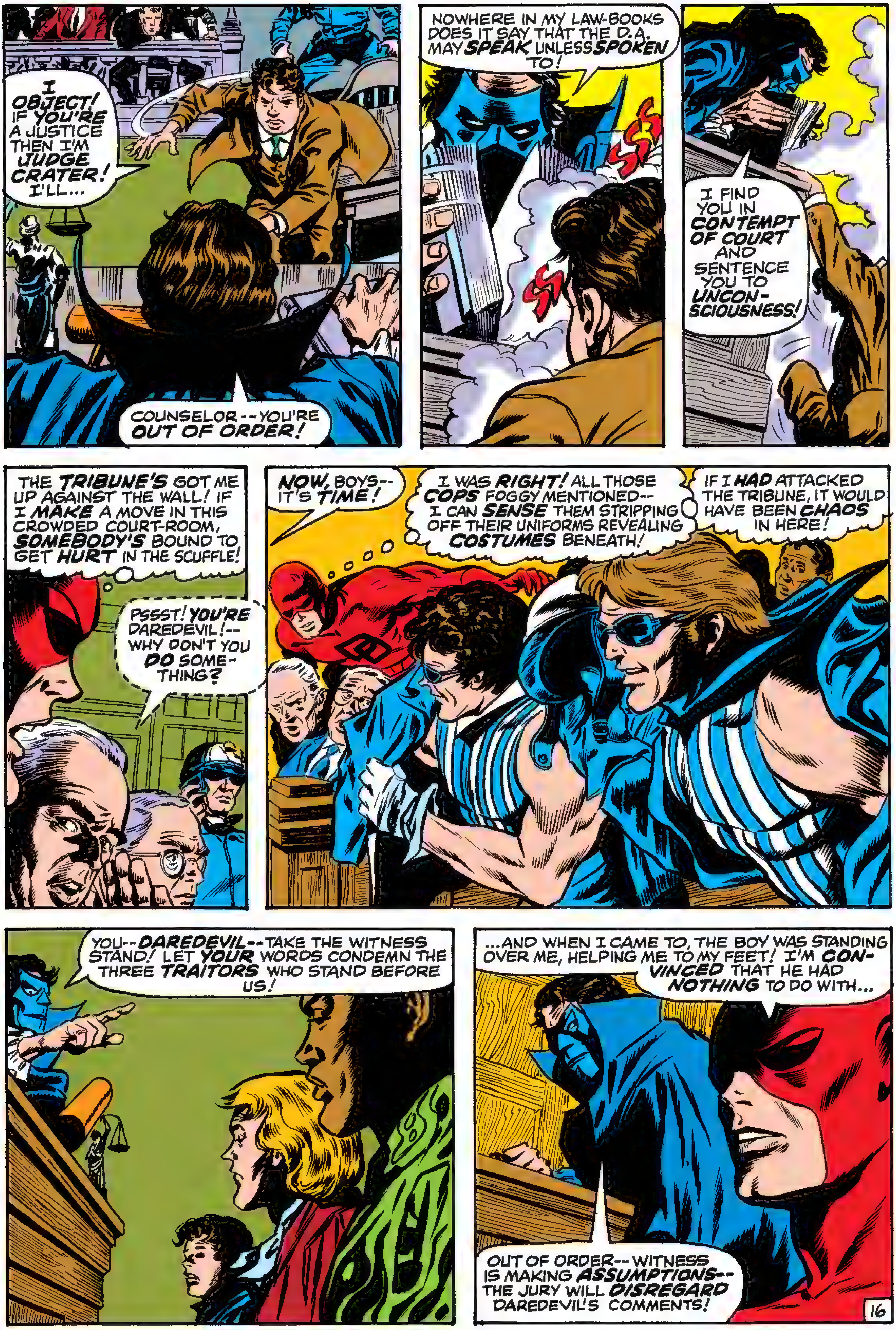

IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, THE YOUTH OF THE CITY TAKES TO THE STREETS, RALLYING AROUND A SINGLE CAUSE, A SINGLE IDEA--WITH A SINGLE CRY ON THEIR LIPS...
FREE THE NEW YORK THREE!!!
FREE NOW!
FREEDOM NOW!
HOTEL
OKAY, PAL--WHY DON'TCHA REST YOUR TONSILS FOR A WHILE?
TAKE YOUR HAND OFF ME, OFFICER --I KNOW MY RIGHTS!
SO WHO DOESN'T THESE DAYS?
FREEDOM NOW!
ALL ACROSS TOWN, EVERYONE, IN THEIR OWN WAY, MAKES THEIR FEELINGS KNOWN...
...AND YOUR OPINION OF THE NEW YORK THREE TRIAL, MISS?
I THINK IT'S A DISGRACE --A MOCKERY OF JUSTICE!
THOSE THREE BOYS ARE BEING PROSECUTED SOLELY BECAUSE OF THEIR VIEWS--
THERE'S NO PROOF WHATEVER THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN THE BOMBINGS! THEY SHOULD...
WELL, MATT--HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE ON THE WRONG SIDE, FOR A CHANGE?
CLICK!
NOT GOOD! I GET THE FEELING THEY SHOULD BE PAYING ME THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER TO HANDLE THIS CASE!
THOSE KIDS ARE INNOCENT--AND WE KNOW IT...
...BUT THE SLOW, STEADY WHEELS OF JUSTICE WILL HAVE TO KEEP TURNING UNTIL WE CAN PROVE IT!
WHICH REMINDS ME--WE'VE GOT A TRIAL TO GET TO...
IF WE DON'T SHOW UP IN COURT WITHIN A HALF HOUR, THOSE SAME SQUEAKY WHEELS WILL START TURNING WITHOUT US!

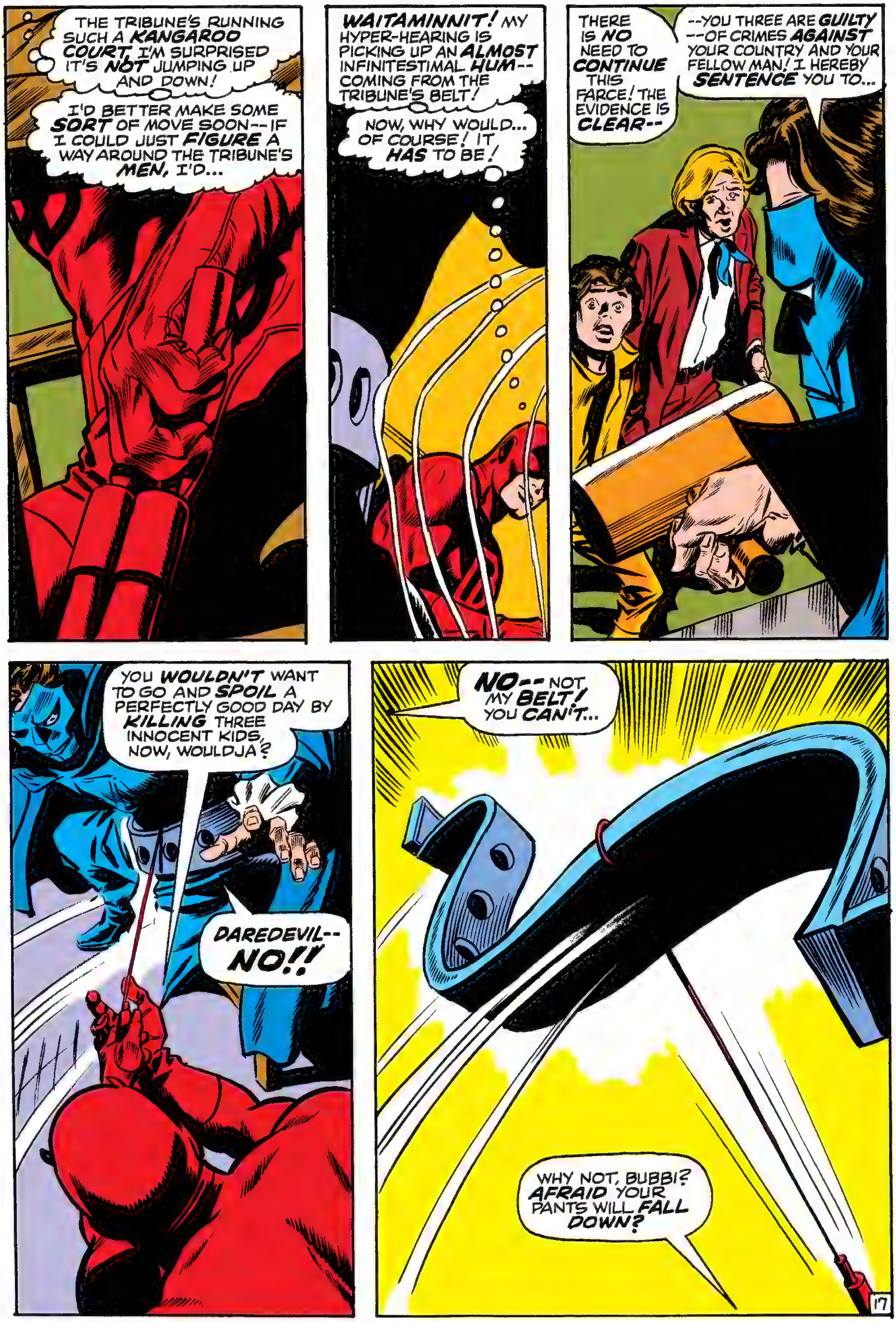

SHORTLY, IN FOGGY'S BASEMENT GARAGE...
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO, MATT? IT'S THE LAW-- AND WE'VE SWORN TO UPHOLD IT!
I KNOW, FOGGY--I JUST KEEP PRAYING THAT JUSTICE ISN'T AS BLIND AS I AM!
AND AT THE SAME MOMENT, A CERTAIN SOMBER, BLACK-CLOAKED FIGURE IS STRIDING DELIBERATELY DOWN THE SILENT HALLS OF JUSTICE TOWARD A LARGE, OAKEN DOOR...
TREAD SOFTLY, GENTLEMEN--
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
JUDGE
NOW, EVERYONE REMEMBER--I WANT THIS TO BE QUICK, QUIET-- AND PAINLESS!
THE JUDGE IS MERELY A MISGUIDED TOOL WHO NEEDS TO BE SHOWN THE TRUE PATH OF JUSTICE!
12

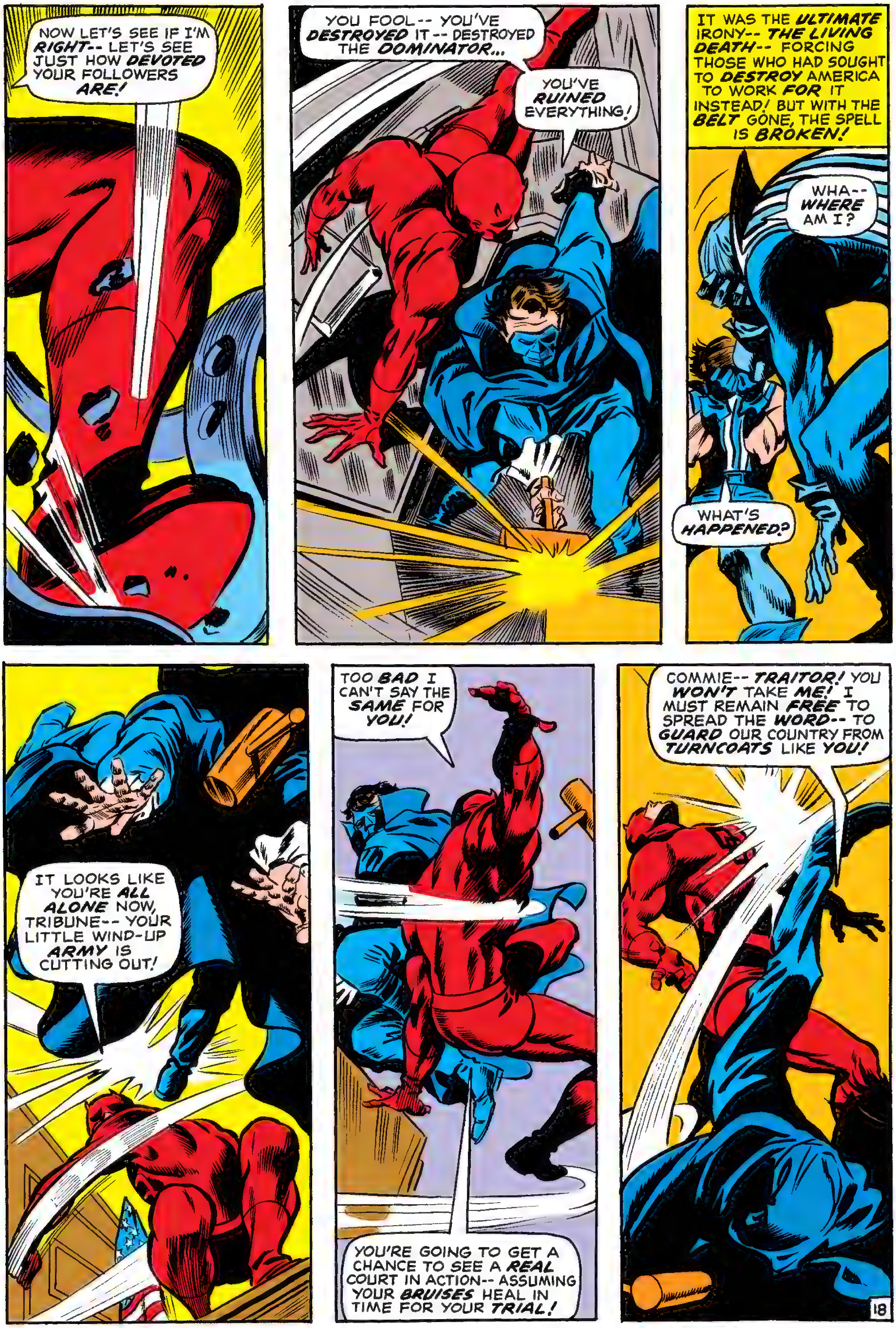

...AND I SHALL BE THE ONE TO SHOW HIM THE WAY!
WHA...? WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY CHAMBERS?
THERE'S NO NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF, FRIEND!
I'M MERELY AN ASSOCIATE-- A FELLOW JUDGE...
13

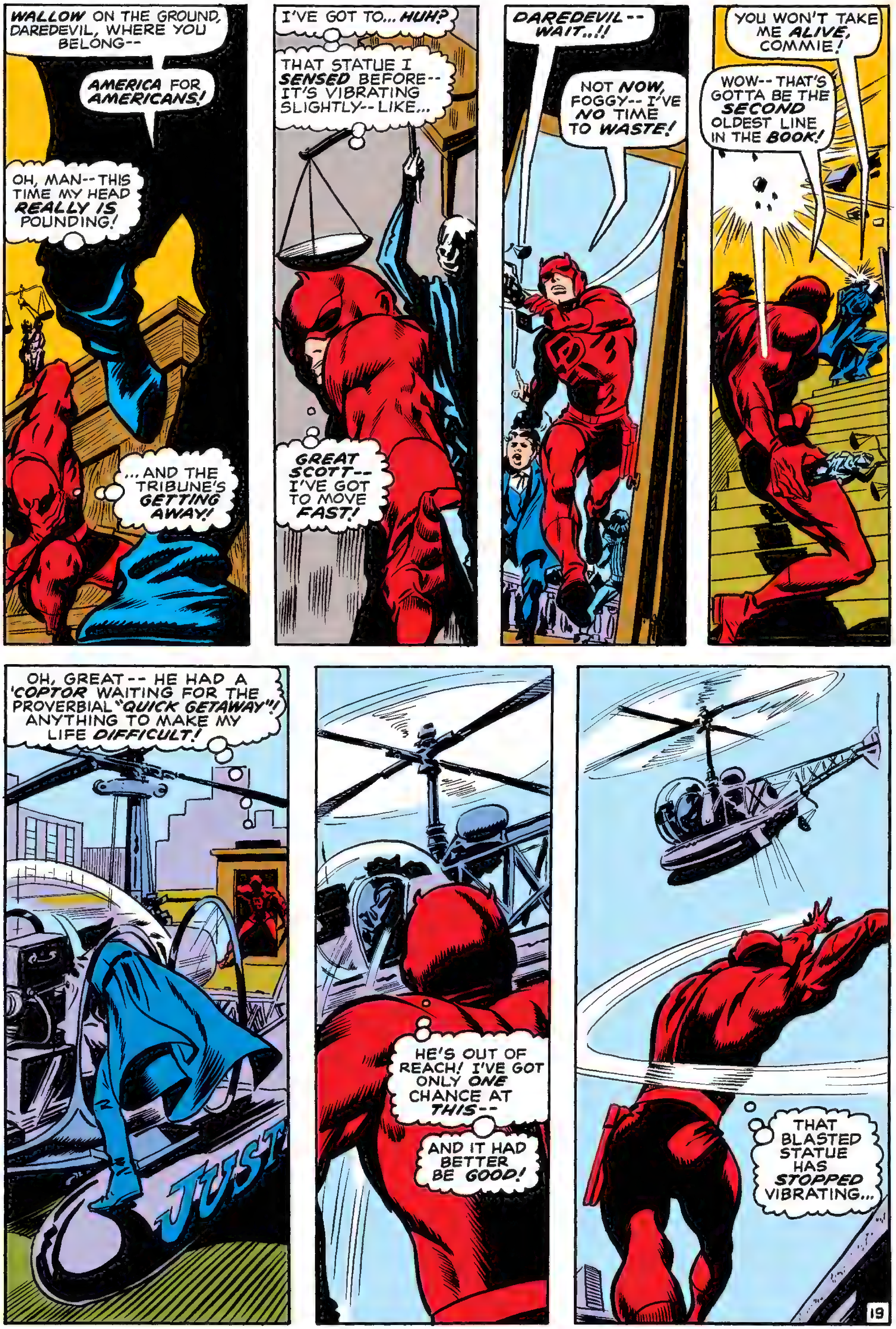

IT'S A SHAME YOU WON'T BE AWAKE TO SEE HOW JUSTICE SHOULD BE DEALT!
AND WHAT OF OUR TWO CONCERNED COUNSELOR --AS THEY PULL TO A STOP BEFORE THE MARBLE STEPS IN FRONT OF MUNICIPAL COURT...
WE'RE HERE, MATT--AND A FEW MINUTES EARLY!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS TAKING NO CHANCES--THEY DON'T WANT A RIOT LIKE THE ONE THAT STARTED ALL THIS!
THERE ARE OFFICERS BY THE DOZEN IN FRONT OF THE COURTHOUSE!
WE'LL HAVE TO--
FOGGY--TH-THAT POUNDING IN MY SKULL--IT'S BACK AGAIN!
I-I HATE TO DO THIS TO YOU, PAL, B-BUT COULD YOU START THE SHOW WITHOUT ME? I'LL SIT OUT HERE A BIT--AND T-TRY TO CLEAR MY HEAD!
WELL,--OKAY, MATT--I CAN HANDLE IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE ANYWAY!
BUT TRY TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH THE FREEDOM OF THOSE BOYS!
SHORTLY, IN THE QUIET OF THE COURTROOM...
'SFUNNY--I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THESE GUARDS--LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING OR OUT OF PLACE!
WHY AREN'T THEIR BADGES DISPLAYED? WHERE ARE...
OH, C'MON, FOGGY--COOL IT! IT'S GONNA BE A LOUSY TRIAL AND YOU'RE ON EDGE--BUT DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON THE FUZZ!

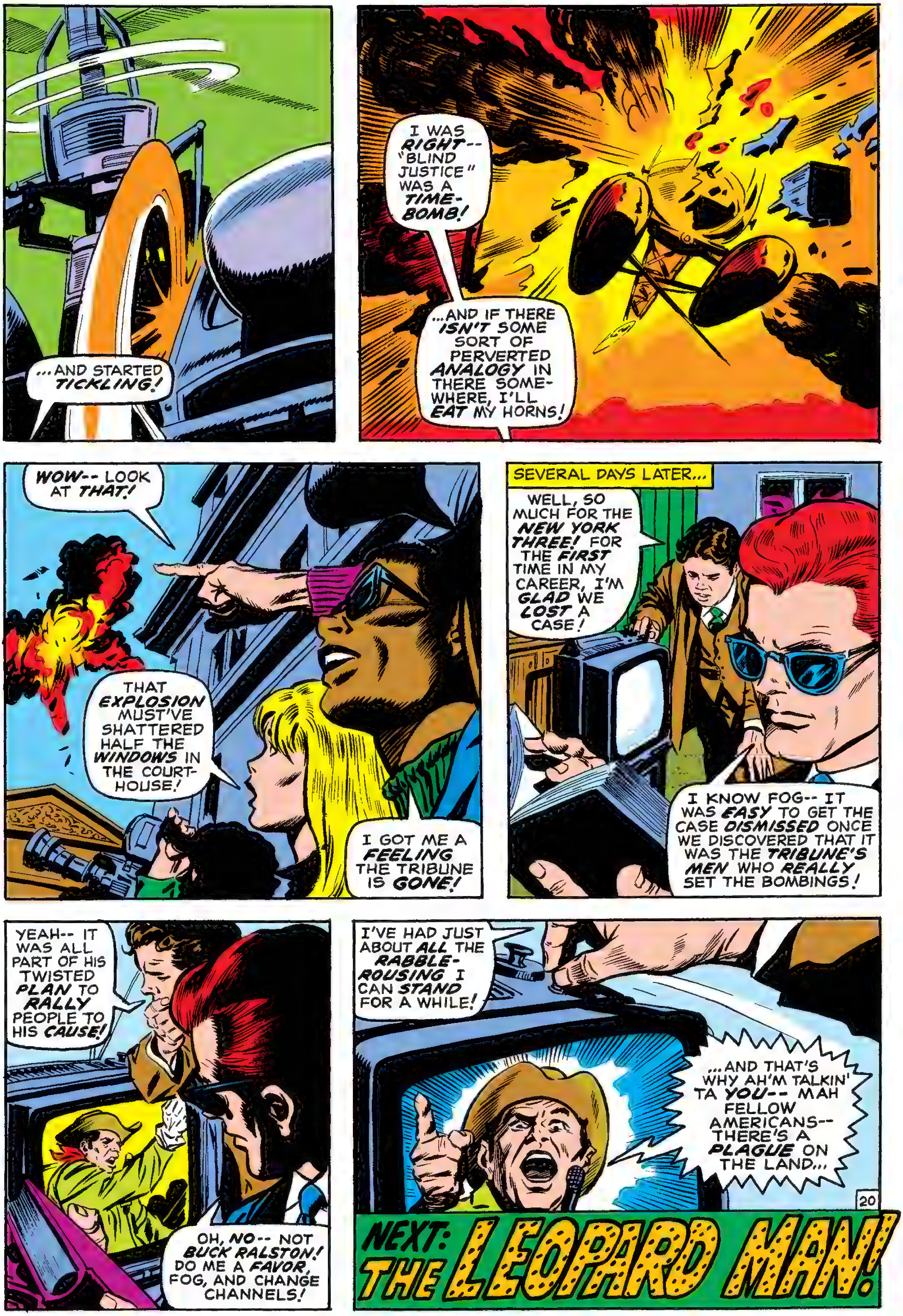

FOGGY TAKES HIS PLACE AND SECONDS LATER...
THESE AFFIDAVITS ARE ALL IN...
HEY, WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION ABOUT BACK THERE?
LOOK, IT'S DAREDEVIL!
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
DD? WOW--THE DEFENSE HAS GOT ITSELF QUITE A WITNESS!
ALL RISE!! FOURTH DISTRICT COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK IS NOW IN SESSION...
THE RIGHT HONORABLE TRIBUNE PRESIDING!
THANK YOU, BAILIFF--I TRUST YOU WILL KEEP ORDER!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--WE ARE GATHERED TODAY IN THE WAKE OF THE MOST HEINOUS OF CRIMES TREASON!!
THOSE WHO STAND BEFORE YOU HAVE CONSPIRED TO DESTROY OUR GREAT NATION--
--AND WE ARE HERE TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL AND PROPER JUSTICE--
--BEFORE WE CONDEMN THEM TO DEATH!!!


I OBJECT! IF YOU'RE A JUSTICE THEN I'M JUDGE CRATER! I'LL...
COUNSELOR--YOU'RE OUT OF ORDER!
NOWHERE IN MY LAW-BOOKS DOES IT SAY THAT THE D.A. MAY SPEAK UNLESS SPOKEN TO!
I FIND YOU IN CONTEMPT OF COURT AND SENTENCE YOU TO UNCONSCIOUSNESS!
THE TRIBUNE'S GOT ME UP AGAINST THE WALL! IF I MAKE A MOVE IN THIS CROWDED COURT-ROOM, SOMEBODY'S BOUND TO GET HURT IN THE SCUFFLE!
PSSST! YOU'RE DAREDEVIL!--WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING?
NOW, BOYS--IT'S TIME!
I WAS RIGHT! ALL THOSE COPS FOGGY MENTIONED--I CAN SENSE THEM STRIPPING OFF THEIR UNIFORMS REVEALING COSTUMES BENEATH!
IF I HAD ATTACKED THE TRIBUNE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CHAOS IN HERE!
YOU--DAREDEVIL--TAKE THE WITNESS STAND! LET YOUR WORDS CONDEMN THE THREE TRAITORS WHO STAND BEFORE US!
...AND WHEN I CAME TO, THE BOY WAS STANDING OVER ME, HELPING ME TO MY FEET! I'M CONVINCED THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH...
OUT OF ORDER--WITNESS IS MAKING ASSUMPTIONS--THE JURY WILL DISREGARD DAREDEVIL'S COMMENTS!


THE TRIBUNE'S RUNNING SUCH A KANGAROO COURT, I'M SURPRISED IT'S NOT JUMPING UP AND DOWN!
I'D BETTER MAKE SOME SORT OF MOVE SOON--IF I COULD JUST FIGURE A WAY AROUND THE TRIBUNE'S MEN, I'D...
WAITAMINNIT! MY HYPER-HEARING IS PICKING UP AN ALMOST INFINITESTIMAL HUM--COMING FROM THE TRIBUNE'S BELT!
NOW, WHY WOULD... OF COURSE! IT HAS TO BE!
THERE IS NO NEED TO CONTINUE THIS FARCE! THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR--
--YOU THREE ARE GUILTY --OF CRIMES AGAINST YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR FELLOW MAN! I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO...
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO GO AND SPOIL A PERFECTLY GOOD DAY BY KILLING THREE INNOCENT KIDS, NOW, WOULDJA?
DAREDEVIL--NO!!
NO--NOT MY BELT! YOU CAN'T...
WHY NOT, BUBBI? AFRAID YOUR PANTS WILL FALL DOWN?
17

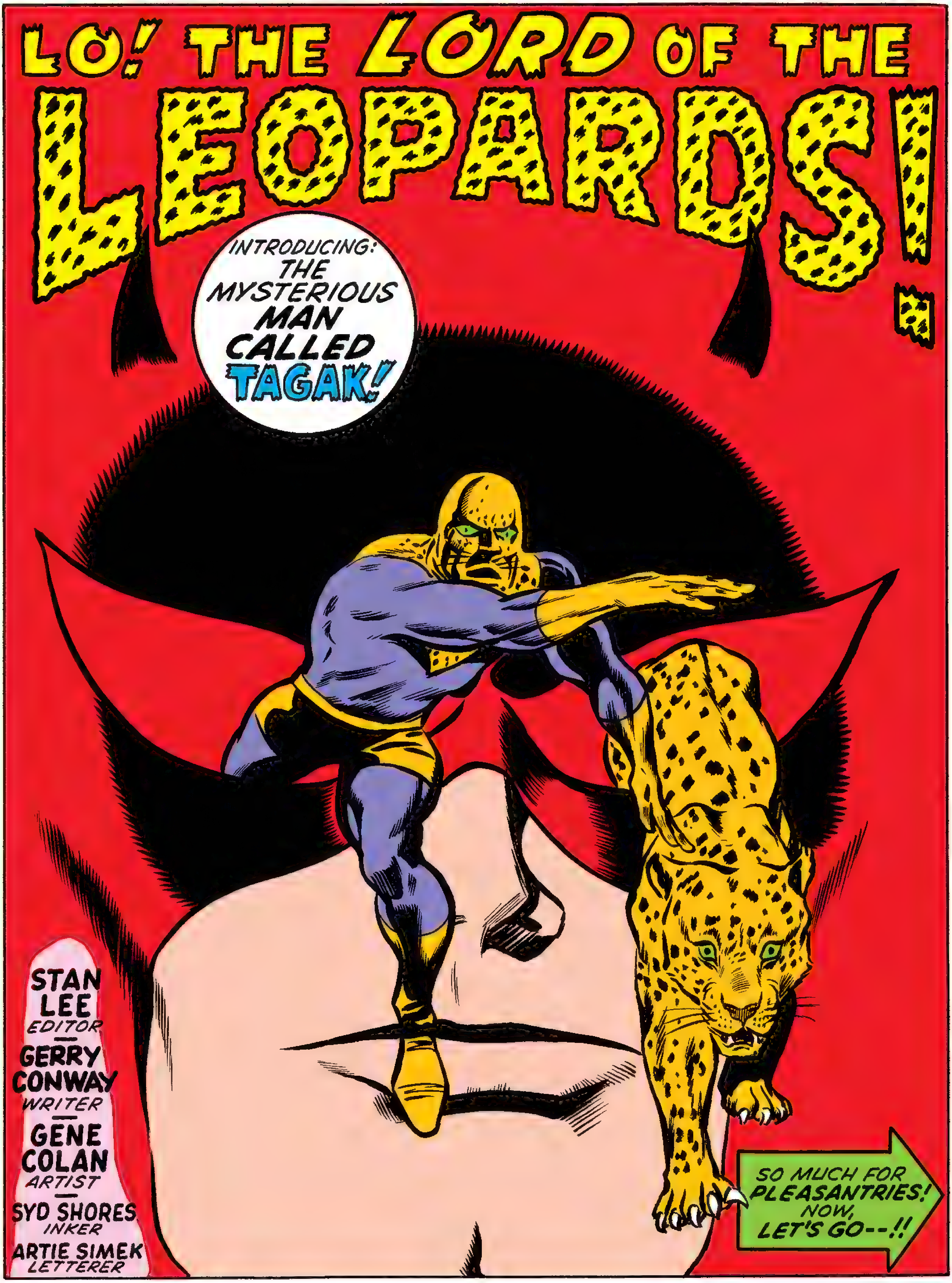

NOW LET'S SEE IF I'M RIGHT-- LET'S SEE JUST HOW DEVOTED YOUR FOLLOWERS ARE!
YOU FOOL-- YOU'VE DESTROYED IT -- DESTROYED THE DOMINATOR...
YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!
IT WAS THE ULTIMATE IRONY-- THE LIVING DEATH-- FORCING THOSE WHO HAD SOUGHT TO DESTROY AMERICA TO WORK FOR IT INSTEAD! BUT WITH THE BELT GONE, THE SPELL IS BROKEN!
WHA-- WHERE AM I?
WHAT'S HAPPENED?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL ALONE NOW, TRIBUNE-- YOUR LITTLE WIND-UP ARMY IS CUTTING OUT!
TOO BAD I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR YOU!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET A CHANCE TO SEE A REAL COURT IN ACTION-- ASSUMING YOUR BRUISES HEAL IN TIME FOR YOUR TRIAL!
COMMIE-- TRAITOR! YOU WON'T TAKE ME! I MUST REMAIN FREE TO SPREAD THE WORD-- TO GUARD OUR COUNTRY FROM TURNCOATS LIKE YOU!

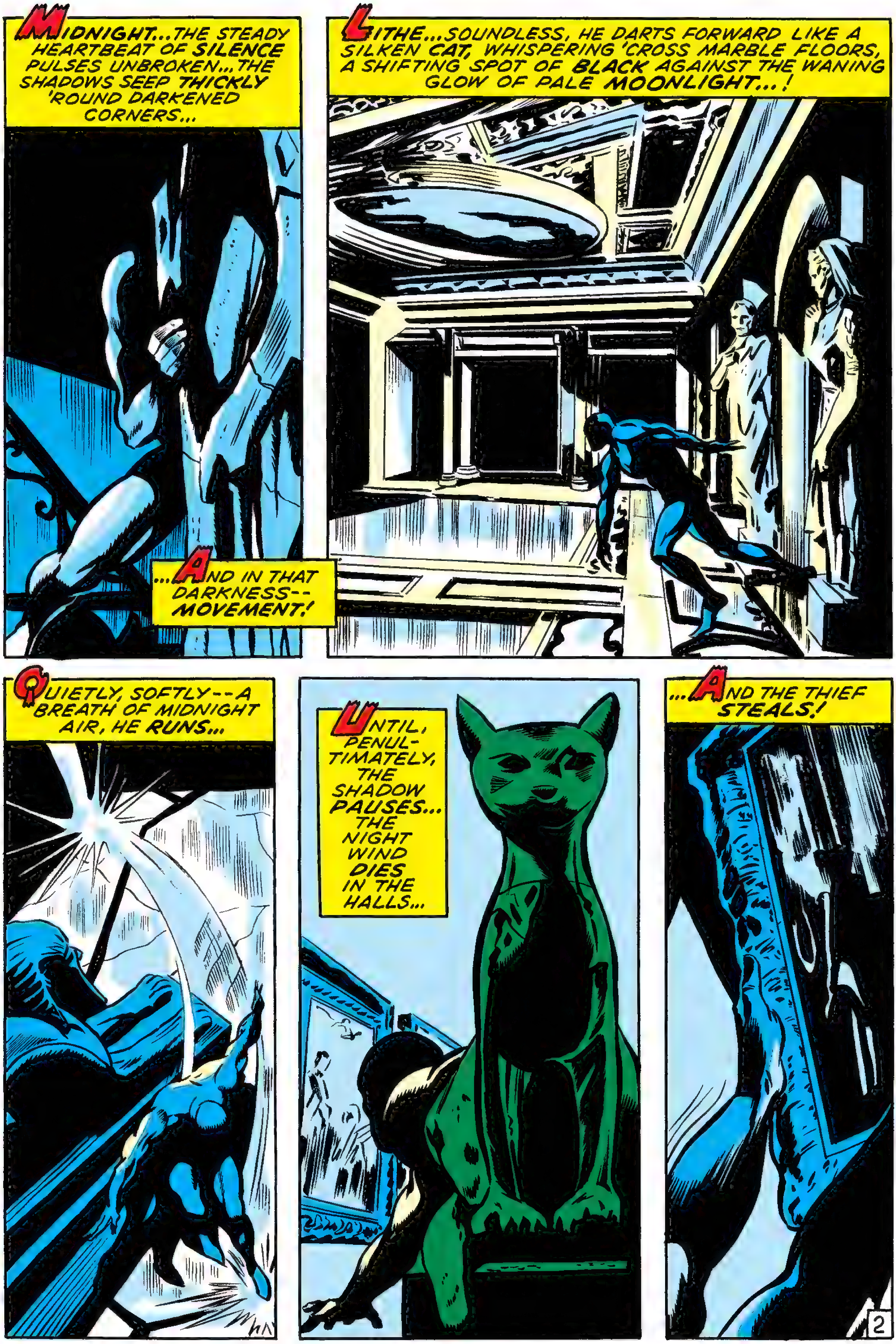

WALLOW ON THE GROUND, DAREDEVIL, WHERE YOU BELONG--
AMERICA FOR AMERICANS!
OH, MAN--THIS TIME MY HEAD REALLY IS POUNDING!
...AND THE TRIBUNE'S GETTING AWAY!
I'VE GOT TO... HUH?
THAT STATUE I SENSED BEFORE--IT'S VIBRATING SLIGHTLY--LIKE...
GREAT SCOTT--I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!
DAREDEVIL--WAIT..!!
NOT NOW, FOGGY--I'VE NO TIME TO WASTE!
YOU WON'T TAKE ME ALIVE, COMMIE!
WOW--THAT'S GOTTA BE THE SECOND OLDEST LINE IN THE BOOK!
OH, GREAT--HE HAD A 'COPTOR WAITING FOR THE PROVERBIAL "QUICK GETAWAY"! ANYTHING TO MAKE MY LIFE DIFFICULT!
JUST
HE'S OUT OF REACH! I'VE GOT ONLY ONE CHANCE AT THIS--
AND IT HAD BETTER BE GOOD!
THAT BLASTED STATUE HAS STOPPED VIBRATING...

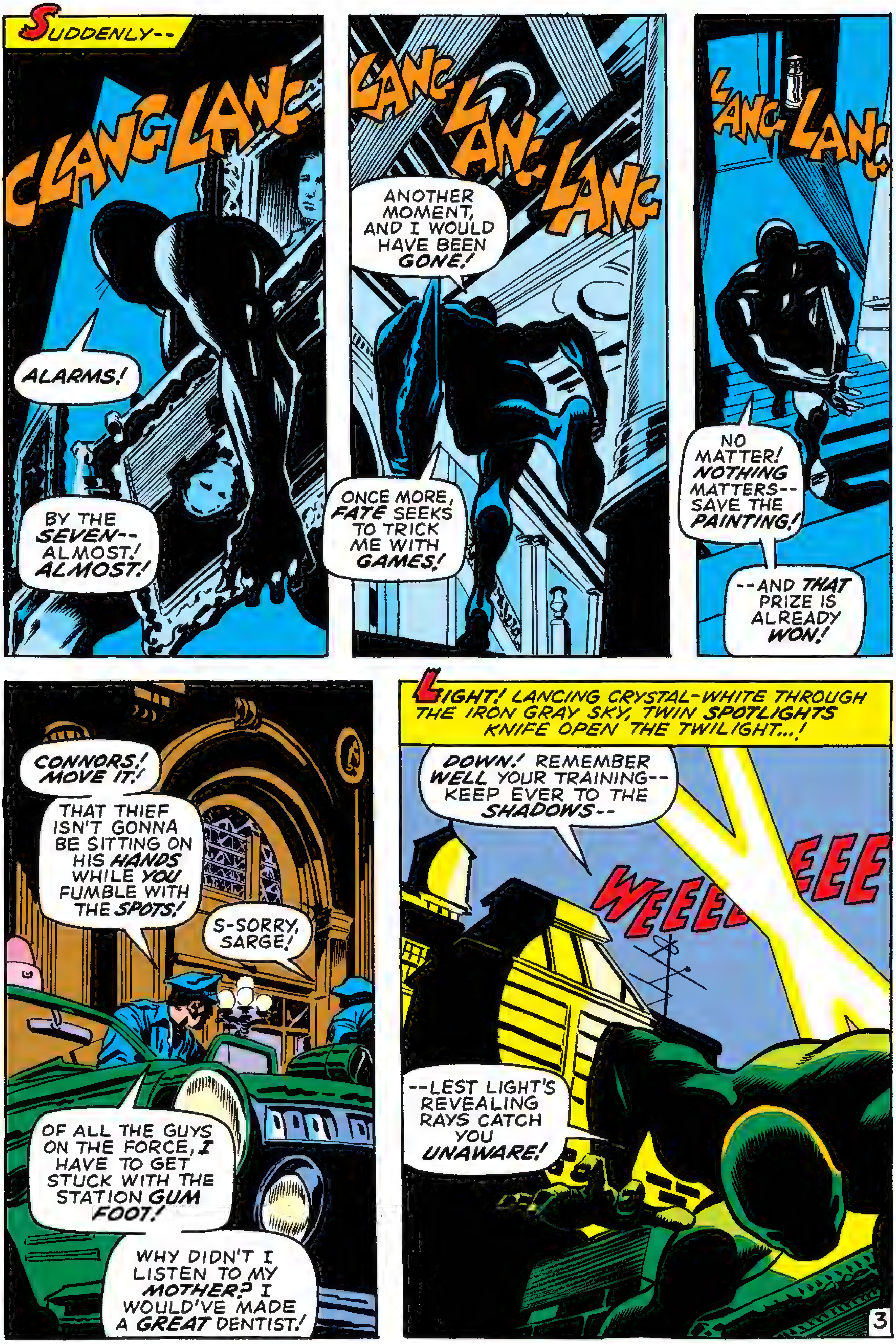

...AND STARTED TICKLING!
I WAS RIGHT-- "BLIND JUSTICE" WAS A TIME-BOMB!
...AND IF THERE ISN'T SOME SORT OF PERVERTED ANALOGY IN THERE SOMEWHERE, I'LL EAT MY HORNS!
WOW-- LOOK AT THAT!
THAT EXPLOSION MUST'VE SHATTERED HALF THE WINDOWS IN THE COURT-HOUSE!
I GOT ME A FEELING THE TRIBUNE IS GONE!
SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
WELL, SO MUCH FOR THE NEW YORK THREE! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY CAREER, I'M GLAD WE LOST A CASE!
I KNOW FOG-- IT WAS EASY TO GET THE CASE DISMISSED ONCE WE DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS THE TRIBUNE'S MEN WHO REALLY SET THE BOMBINGS!
YEAH-- IT WAS ALL PART OF HIS TWISTED PLAN TO RALLY PEOPLE TO HIS CAUSE!
OH, NO-- NOT BUCK RALSTON! DO ME A FAVOR, FOG, AND CHANGE CHANNELS!
I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ALL THE RABBLE-ROUSING I CAN STAND FOR A WHILE!
...AND THAT'S WHY AH'M TALKIN' TA YOU-- MAH FELLOW AMERICANS-- THERE'S A PLAGUE ON THE LAND...
NEXT: THE LEOPARD MAN!

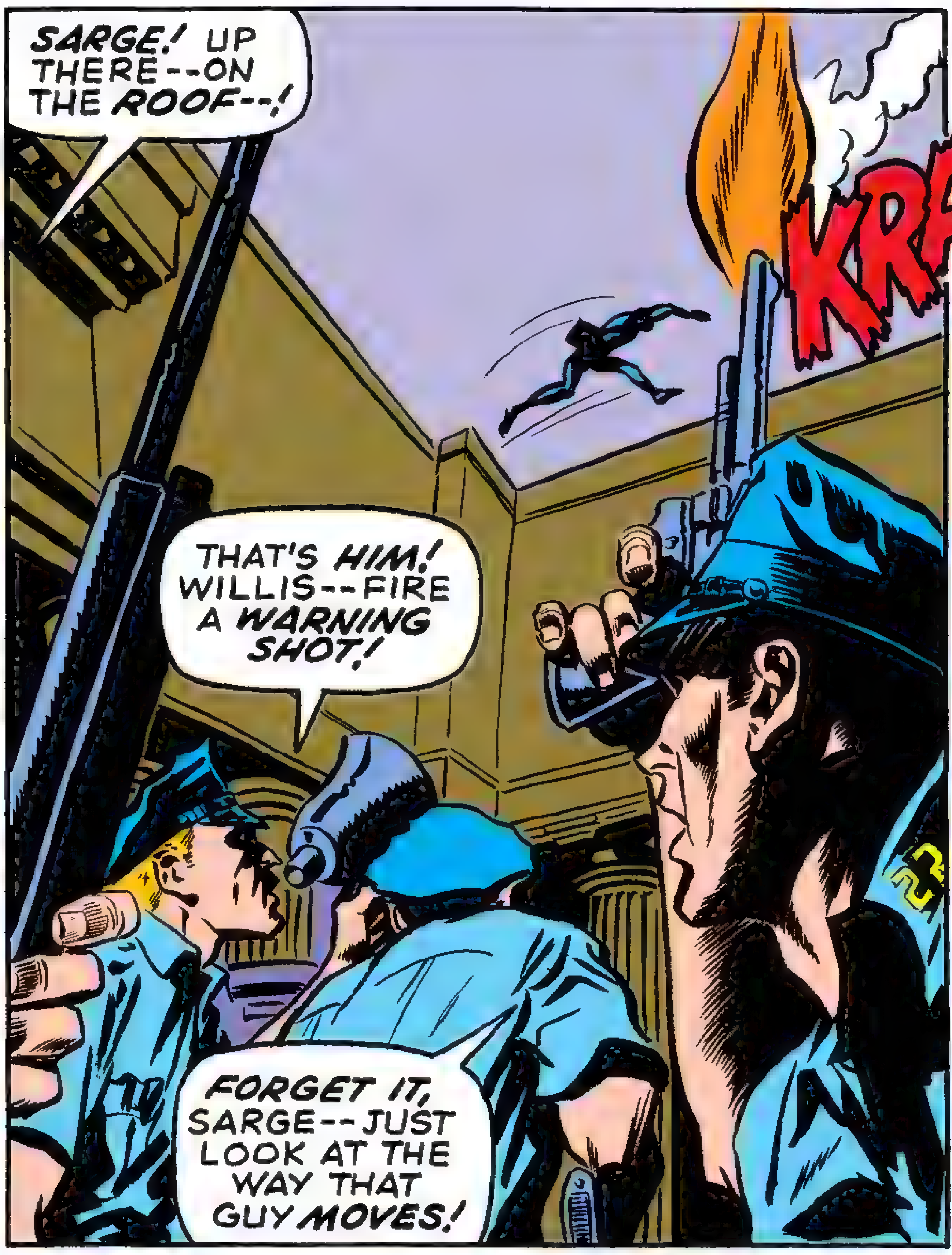
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
72
JAN
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
LOOK OUT, BLIND MAN! HERE COMES TAGAK, THE LEOPARD LORD!
AND LOOK WHERE HE'S COMING FROM!!!

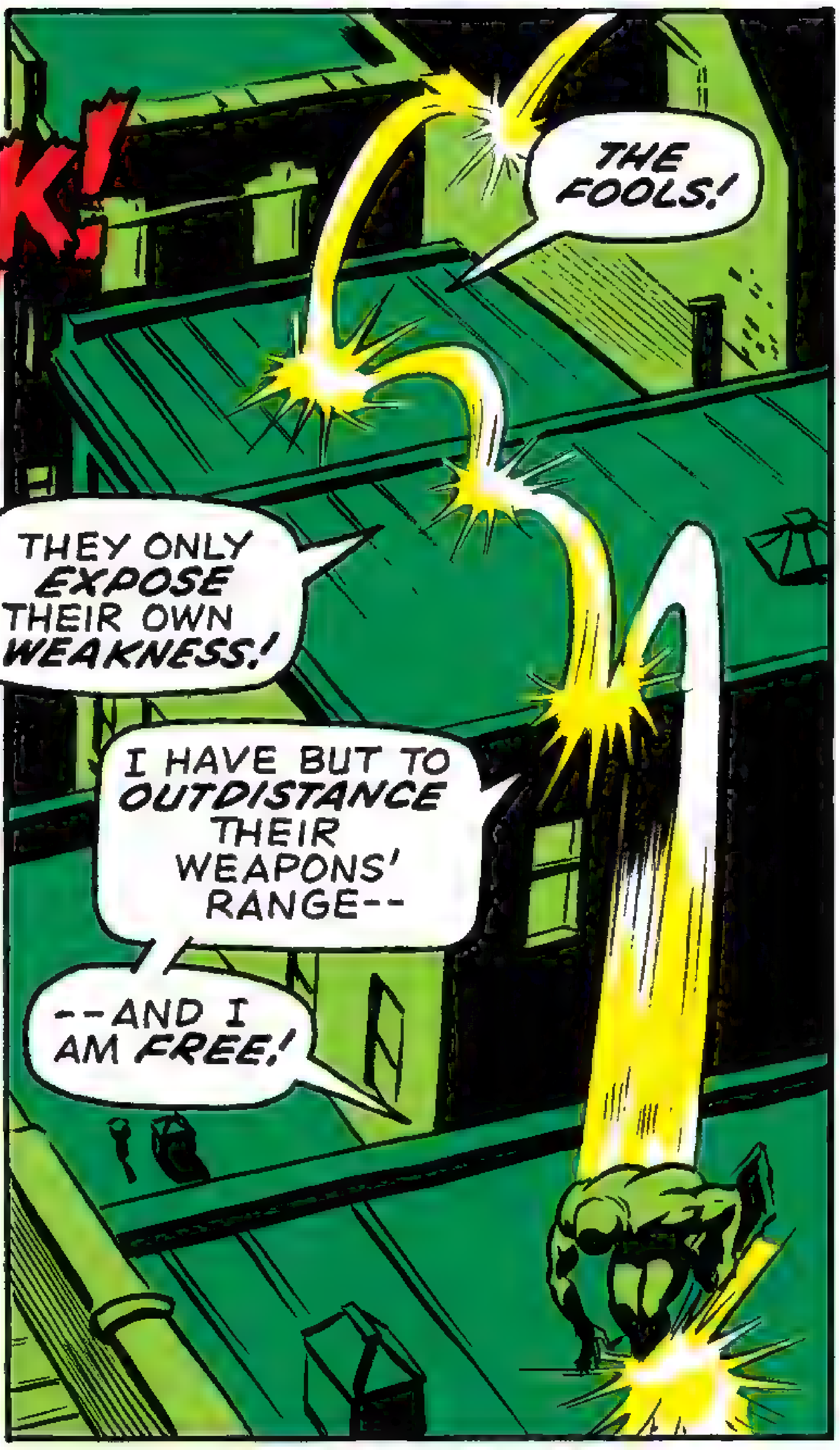
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

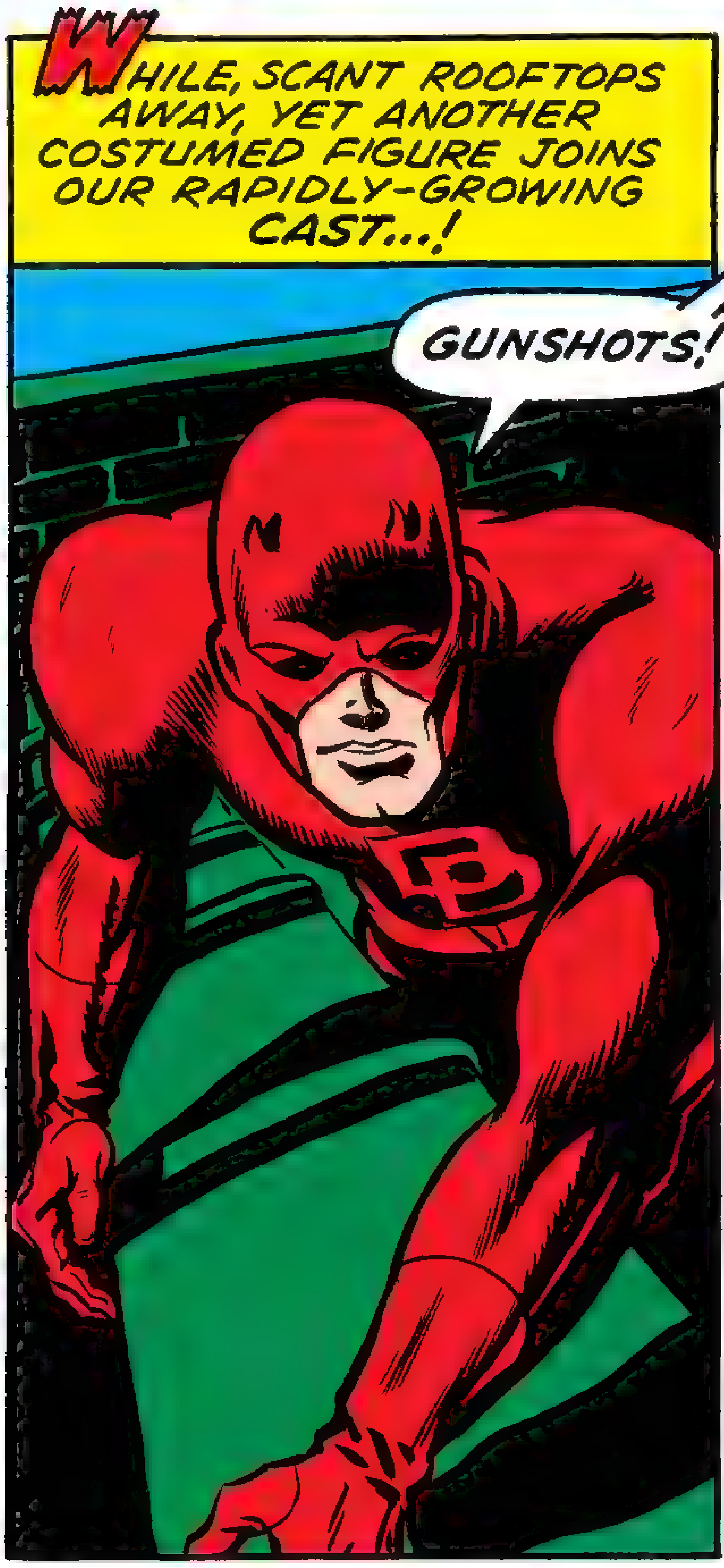

LO! THE LORD OF THE LEOPARDS!
INTRODUCING: THE MYSTERIOUS MAN CALLED TAGAK!
STAN LEE EDITOR
GERRY CONWAY WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES INKER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER
SO MUCH FOR PLEASANTRIES! NOW, LET'S GO--!!

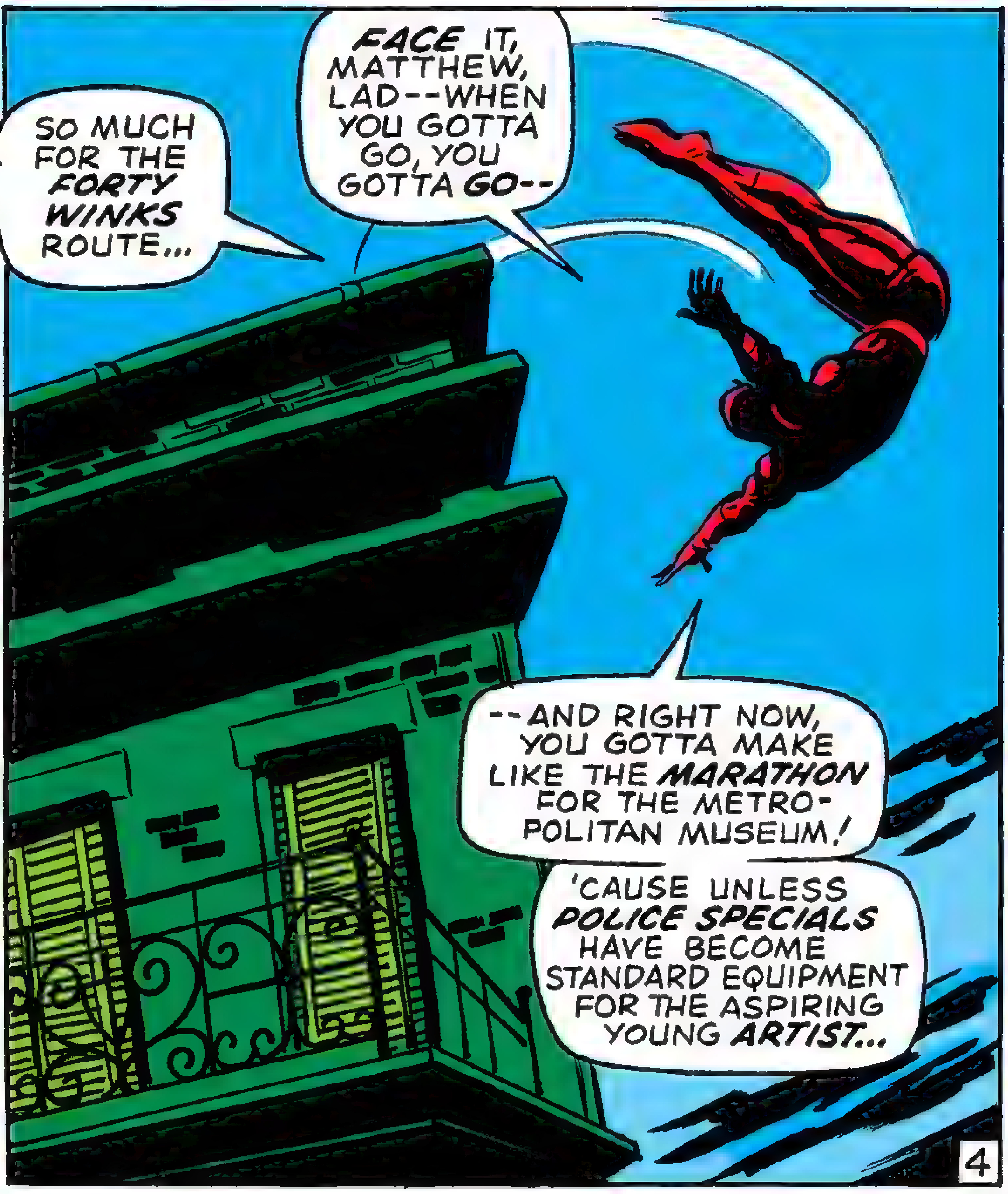

MIDNIGHT...THE STEADY HEARTBEAT OF SILENCE PULSES UNBROKEN...THE SHADOWS SEEP THICKLY 'ROUND DARKENED CORNERS...
...AND IN THAT DARKNESS--MOVEMENT!
LITHE...SOUNDLESS, HE DARTS FORWARD LIKE A SILKEN CAT, WHISPERING 'CROSS MARBLE FLOORS, A SHIFTING SPOT OF BLACK AGAINST THE WANING GLOW OF PALE MOONLIGHT...!
QUIETLY, SOFTLY--A BREATH OF MIDNIGHT AIR, HE RUNS...
UNTIL, PENULTIMATELY, THE SHADOW PAUSES... THE NIGHT WIND DIES IN THE HALLS...
...AND THE THIEF STEALS!

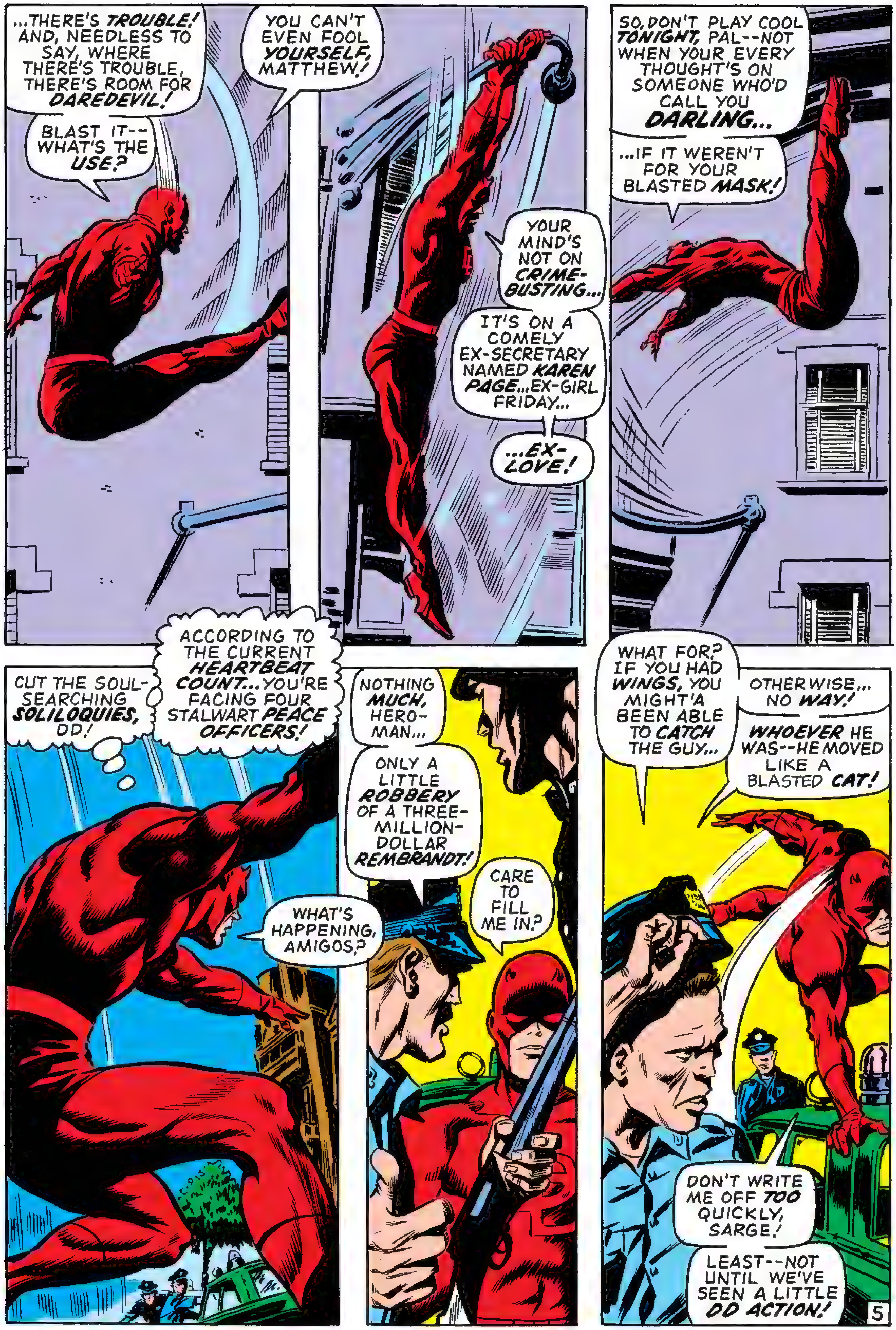

SUDDENLY--
CLANG CLANG
ALARMS!
BY THE SEVEN-- ALMOST! ALMOST!
CLANG CLANG CLANG
ANOTHER MOMENT, AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN GONE!
ONCE MORE, FATE SEEKS TO TRICK ME WITH GAMES!
CLANG CLANG
NO MATTER! NOTHING MATTERS-- SAVE THE PAINTING!
--AND THAT PRIZE IS ALREADY WON!
CONNORS! MOVE IT!
THAT THIEF ISN'T GONNA BE SITTING ON HIS HANDS WHILE YOU FUMBLE WITH THE SPOTS!
S-SORRY, SARGE!
OF ALL THE GUYS ON THE FORCE, I HAVE TO GET STUCK WITH THE STATION GUM FOOT!
WHY DIDN'T I LISTEN TO MY MOTHER? I WOULD'VE MADE A GREAT DENTIST!
LIGHT! LANCING CRYSTAL-WHITE THROUGH THE IRON GRAY SKY, TWIN SPOTLIGHTS KNIFE OPEN THE TWILIGHT...!
DOWN! REMEMBER WELL YOUR TRAINING-- KEEP EVER TO THE SHADOWS--
WEEEEEEEE
--LEST LIGHT'S REVEALING RAYS CATCH YOU UNAWARE!

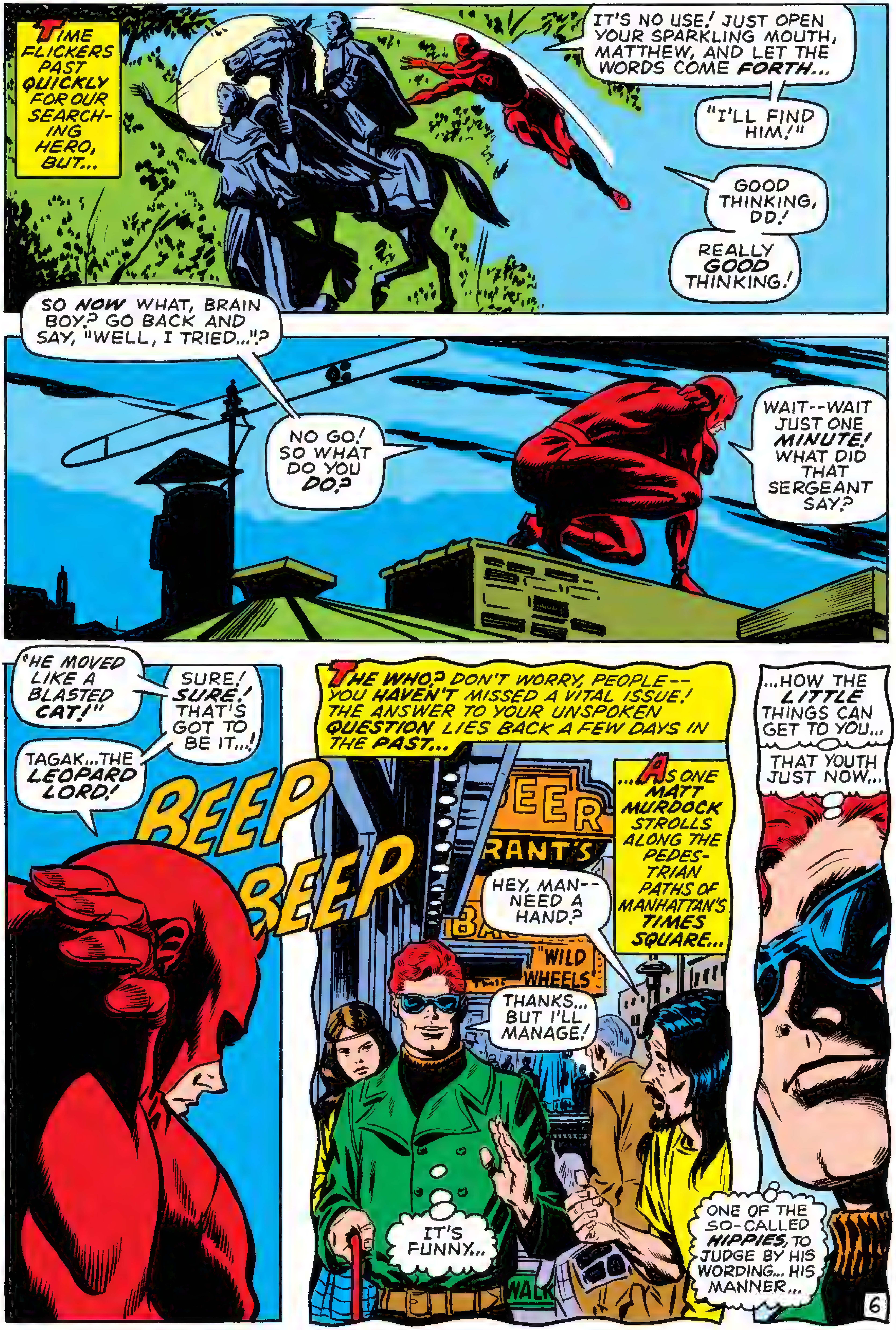

SARGE! UP THERE--ON THE ROOF--!
KRAK!
THAT'S HIM! WILLIS--FIRE A WARNING SHOT!
FORGET IT, SARGE--JUST LOOK AT THE WAY THAT GUY MOVES!

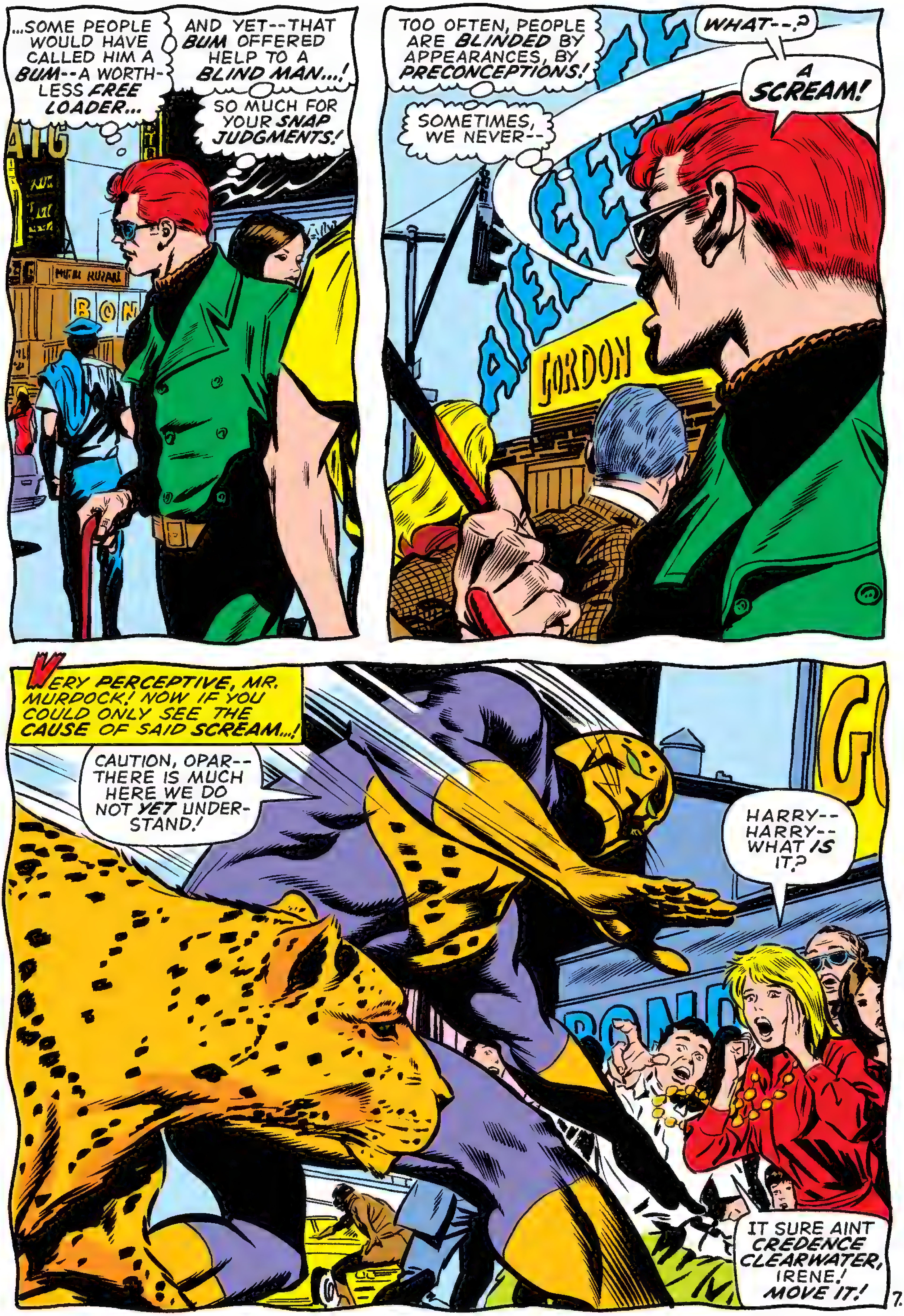

THE FOOLS!
THEY ONLY EXPOSE THEIR OWN WEAKNESS!
I HAVE BUT TO OUTDISTANCE THEIR WEAPONS' RANGE--
--AND I AM FREE!


WHILE, SCANT ROOFTOPS AWAY, YET ANOTHER COSTUMED FIGURE JOINS OUR RAPIDLY-GROWING CAST...!
GUNSHOTS!

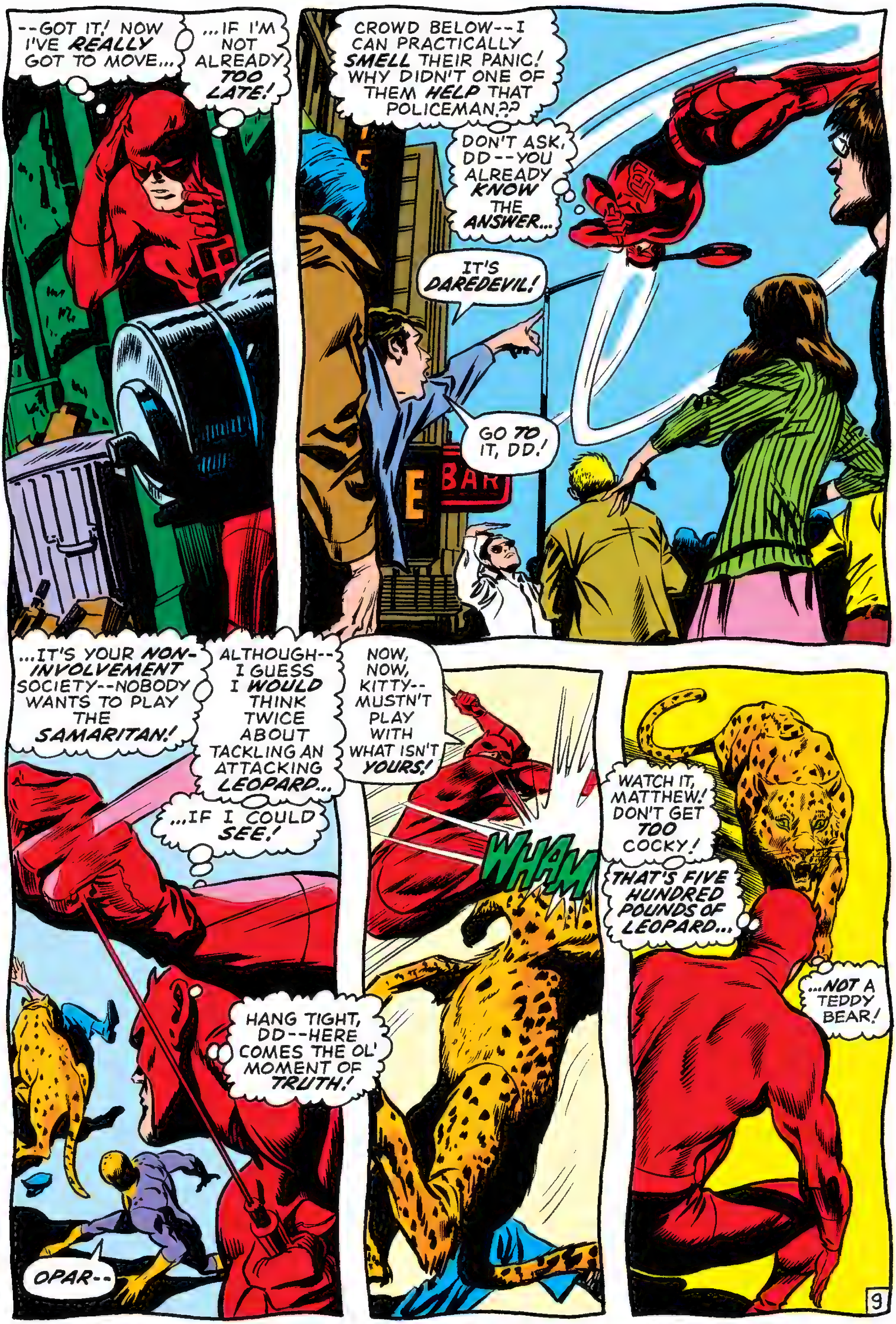

SO MUCH FOR THE FORTY WINKS ROUTE...
FACE IT, MATTHEW, LAD--WHEN YOU GOTTA GO, YOU GOTTA GO--
--AND RIGHT NOW, YOU GOTTA MAKE LIKE THE MARATHON FOR THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM!
'CAUSE UNLESS POLICE SPECIALS HAVE BECOME STANDARD EQUIPMENT FOR THE ASPIRING YOUNG ARTIST...

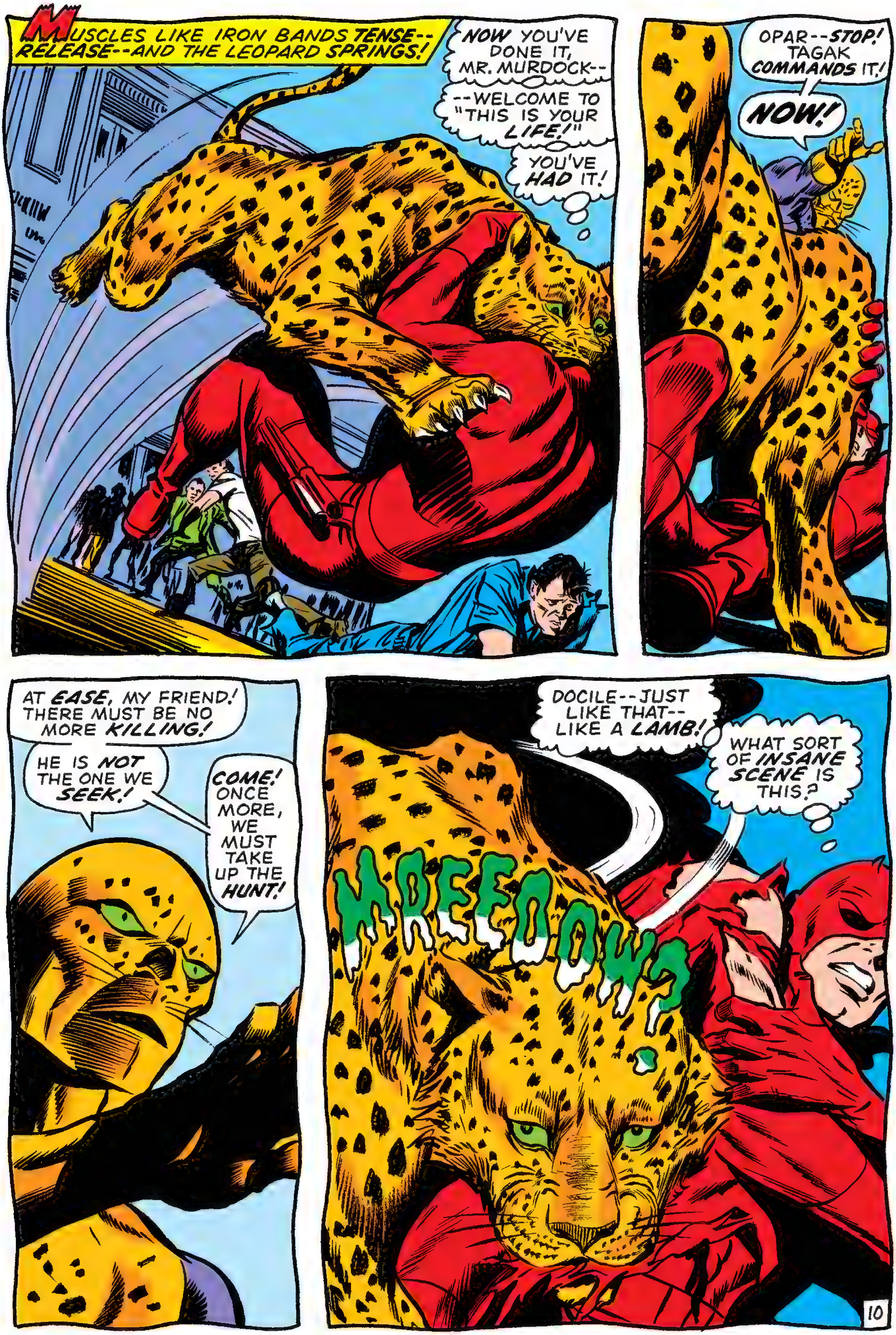

...THERE'S TROUBLE! AND, NEEDLESS TO SAY, WHERE THERE'S TROUBLE, THERE'S ROOM FOR DAREDEVIL!
BLAST IT--WHAT'S THE USE?
YOU CAN'T EVEN FOOL YOURSELF, MATTHEW!
YOUR MIND'S NOT ON CRIME-BUSTING...
IT'S ON A COMELY EX-SECRETARY NAMED KAREN PAGE...EX-GIRL FRIDAY...
...EX-LOVE!
SO, DON'T PLAY COOL TONIGHT, PAL--NOT WHEN YOUR EVERY THOUGHT'S ON SOMEONE WHO'D CALL YOU DARLING...
...IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR BLASTED MASK!
CUT THE SOUL-SEARCHING SOLILOQUIES, DD!
ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT HEARTBEAT COUNT... YOU'RE FACING FOUR STALWART PEACE OFFICERS!
WHAT'S HAPPENING, AMIGOS?
NOTHING MUCH, HERO-MAN...
ONLY A LITTLE ROBBERY OF A THREE-MILLION-DOLLAR REMBRANDT!
CARE TO FILL ME IN?
WHAT FOR? IF YOU HAD WINGS, YOU MIGHT'A BEEN ABLE TO CATCH THE GUY...
OTHERWISE... NO WAY!
WHOEVER HE WAS--HE MOVED LIKE A BLASTED CAT!
DON'T WRITE ME OFF TOO QUICKLY, SARGE!
LEAST--NOT UNTIL WE'VE SEEN A LITTLE DD ACTION!

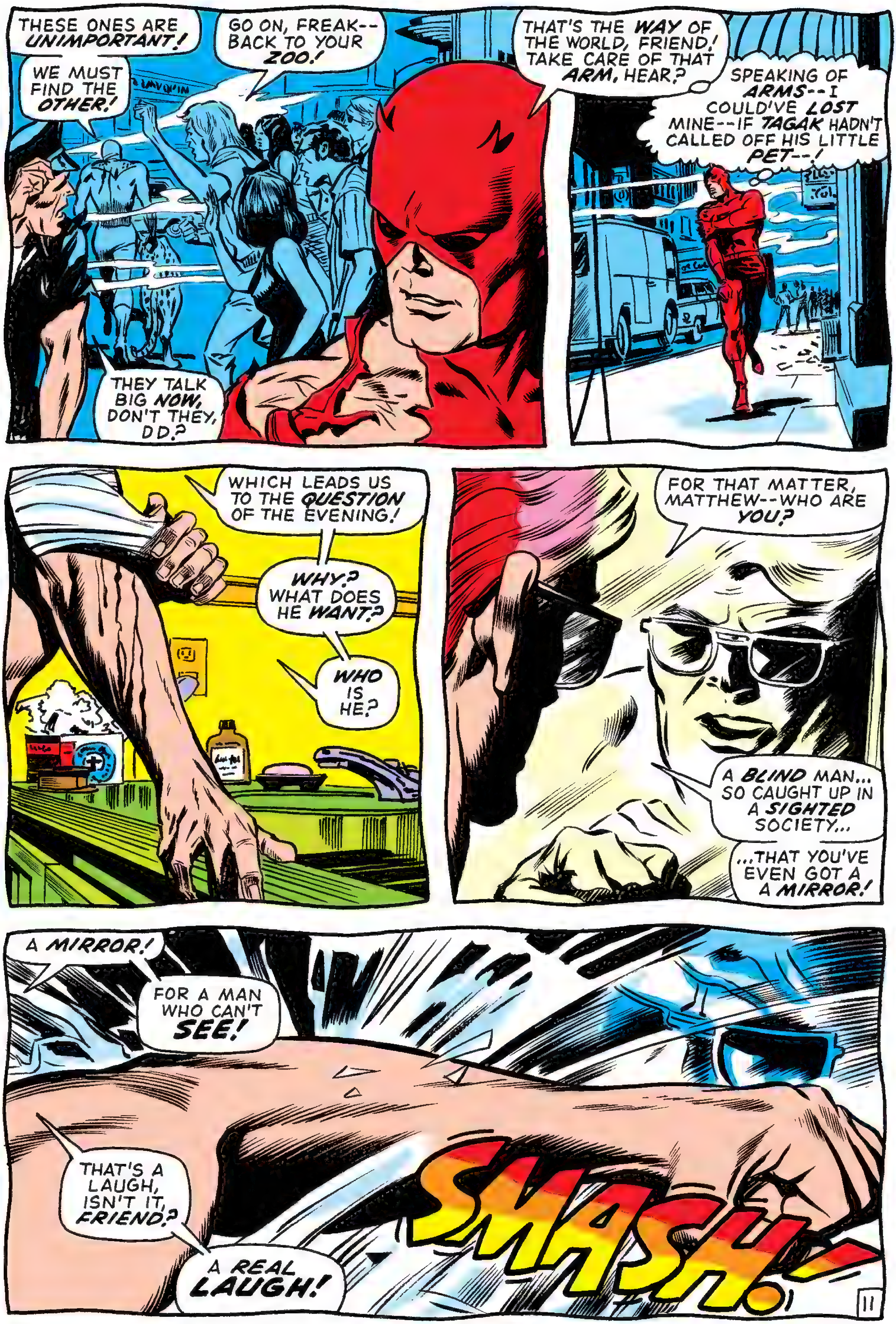

TIME FLICKERS PAST QUICKLY FOR OUR SEARCHING HERO, BUT...
IT'S NO USE! JUST OPEN YOUR SPARKLING MOUTH, MATTHEW, AND LET THE WORDS COME FORTH...
"I'LL FIND HIM!"
GOOD THINKING, DD!
REALLY GOOD THINKING!
SO NOW WHAT, BRAIN BOY? GO BACK AND SAY, "WELL, I TRIED..."?
NO GO! SO WHAT DO YOU DO?
WAIT--WAIT JUST ONE MINUTE! WHAT DID THAT SERGEANT SAY?
"HE MOVED LIKE A BLASTED CAT!"
SURE! SURE! THAT'S GOT TO BE IT...!
TAGAK...THE LEOPARD LORD!
BEEP BEEP
THE WHO? DON'T WORRY, PEOPLE--YOU HAVEN'T MISSED A VITAL ISSUE! THE ANSWER TO YOUR UNSPOKEN QUESTION LIES BACK A FEW DAYS IN THE PAST...
...AS ONE MATT MURDOCK STROLLS ALONG THE PEDESTRIAN PATHS OF MANHATTAN'S TIMES SQUARE...
BEER
RANT'S
WILD WHEELS
WALK
HEY, MAN--NEED A HAND?
THANKS... BUT I'LL MANAGE!
IT'S FUNNY...
...HOW THE LITTLE THINGS CAN GET TO YOU...
THAT YOUTH JUST NOW...
ONE OF THE SO-CALLED HIPPIES, TO JUDGE BY HIS WORDING... HIS MANNER...

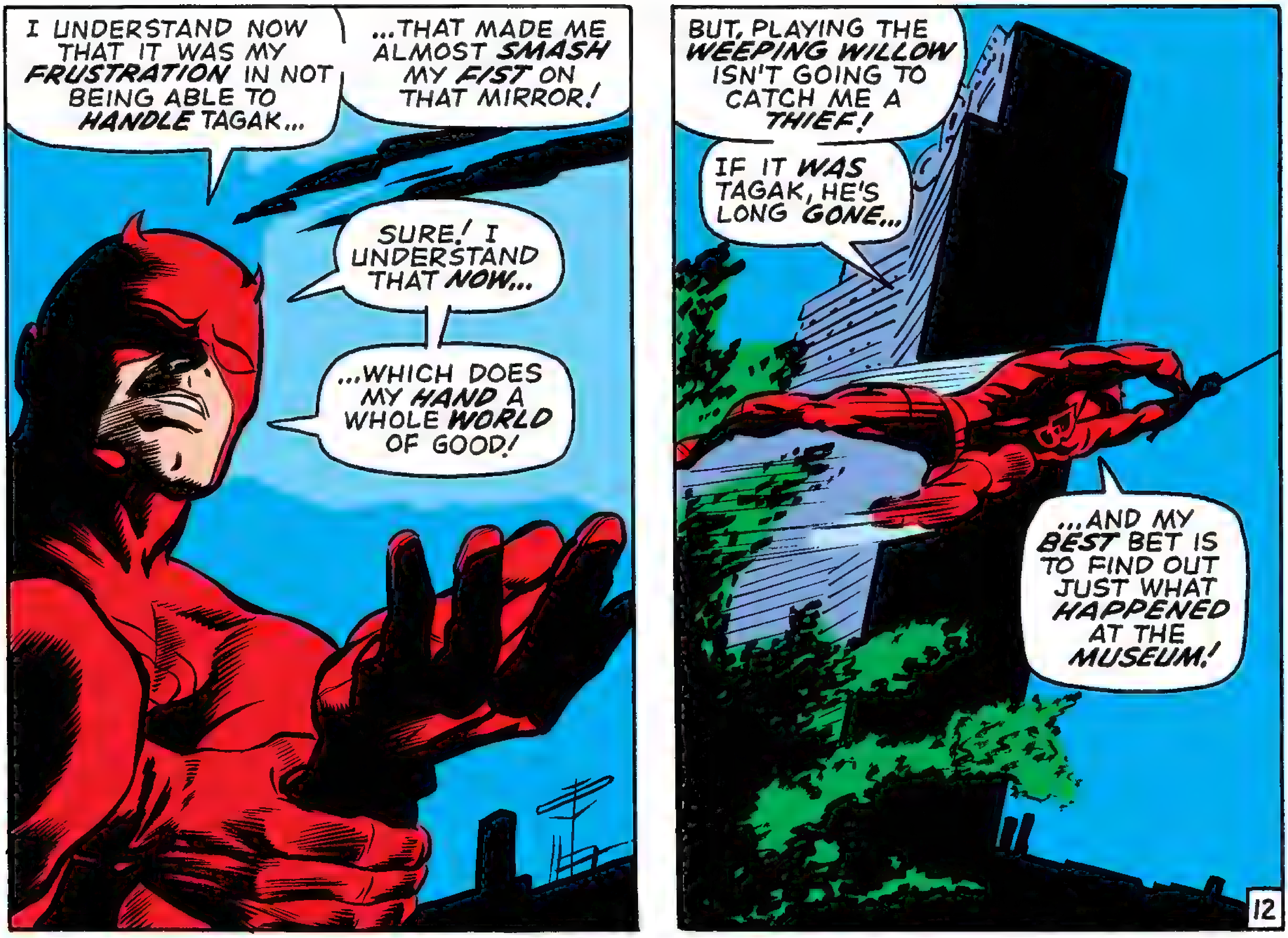

...SOME PEOPLE WOULD HAVE CALLED HIM A *BUM*--A WORTHLESS *FREE LOADER*...
AND YET--THAT *BUM* OFFERED HELP TO A *BLIND MAN*...!
SO MUCH FOR YOUR *SNAP JUDGMENTS!*
BON
TOO OFTEN, PEOPLE ARE *BLINDED* BY APPEARANCES, BY *PRECONCEPTIONS!*
SOMETIMES, WE NEVER--
AIEEEEE
WHAT--?
A *SCREAM!*
GORDON
VERY PERCEPTIVE, MR. MURDOCK! NOW IF YOU COULD ONLY SEE THE CAUSE OF SAID SCREAM...!
CAUTION, OPAR--THERE IS MUCH HERE WE DO NOT *YET* UNDERSTAND!
HARRY--HARRY--WHAT *IS* IT?
IT SURE AINT *CREDENCE CLEARWATER,* IRENE! *MOVE IT!*

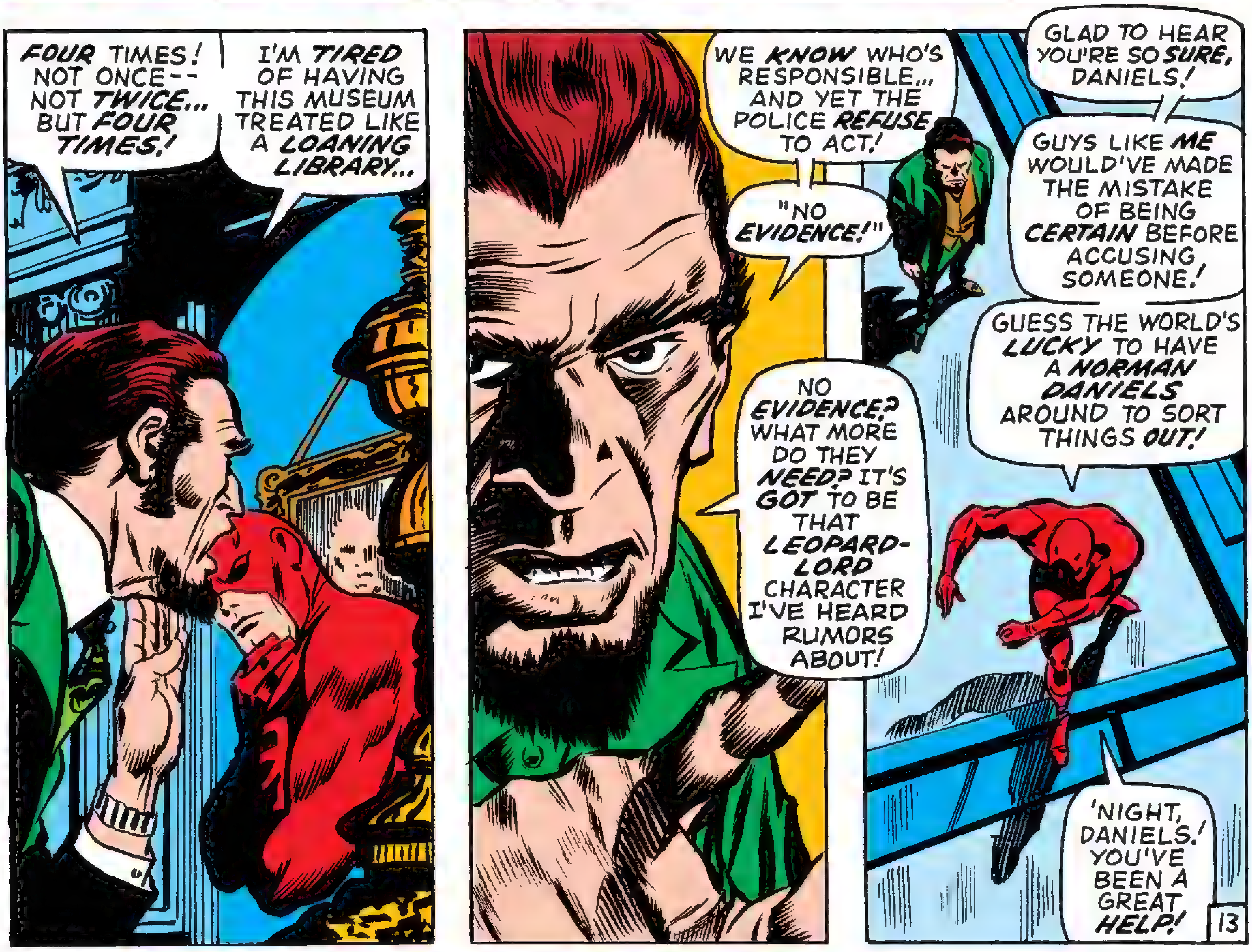
STOP!
ALL RIGHT, MISTER, YOU'D BETTER HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
STOP??
THE LORD OF LEOPARDS STOPS FOR NO ONE!
EEEE
AIEE
DON'T MAKE ME SHOOT, FELLA! STAY BACK!
MEANWHILE (AS THEY SAY IN THE OLD MOVIES)...
SOME SORT OF GIANT CAT... READYING TO SPRING!
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF SIGHT-- SWITCH TO DAREDEVIL...
...OR NEW YORK WILL BE MINUS ONE OF HER FINEST!
BAM
EVERYBODY-- KEEP BACK! GET OUTTA HERE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME TWICE, PAL!
NEVER REALLY FELT LIKE A BLIND MAN BEFORE --SO HELPLESS...
...SO TOTALLY ALONE--!
WHILE, ON THE STREET, ANOTHER MAN KNOWS THE TERROR OF HELPLESSNESS...
GET HIM OFF-- GET HIM--!
BOND
AAARRR--!
DOWN, OPAR--HE CANNOT HARM ME! DOWN!
OPAR!

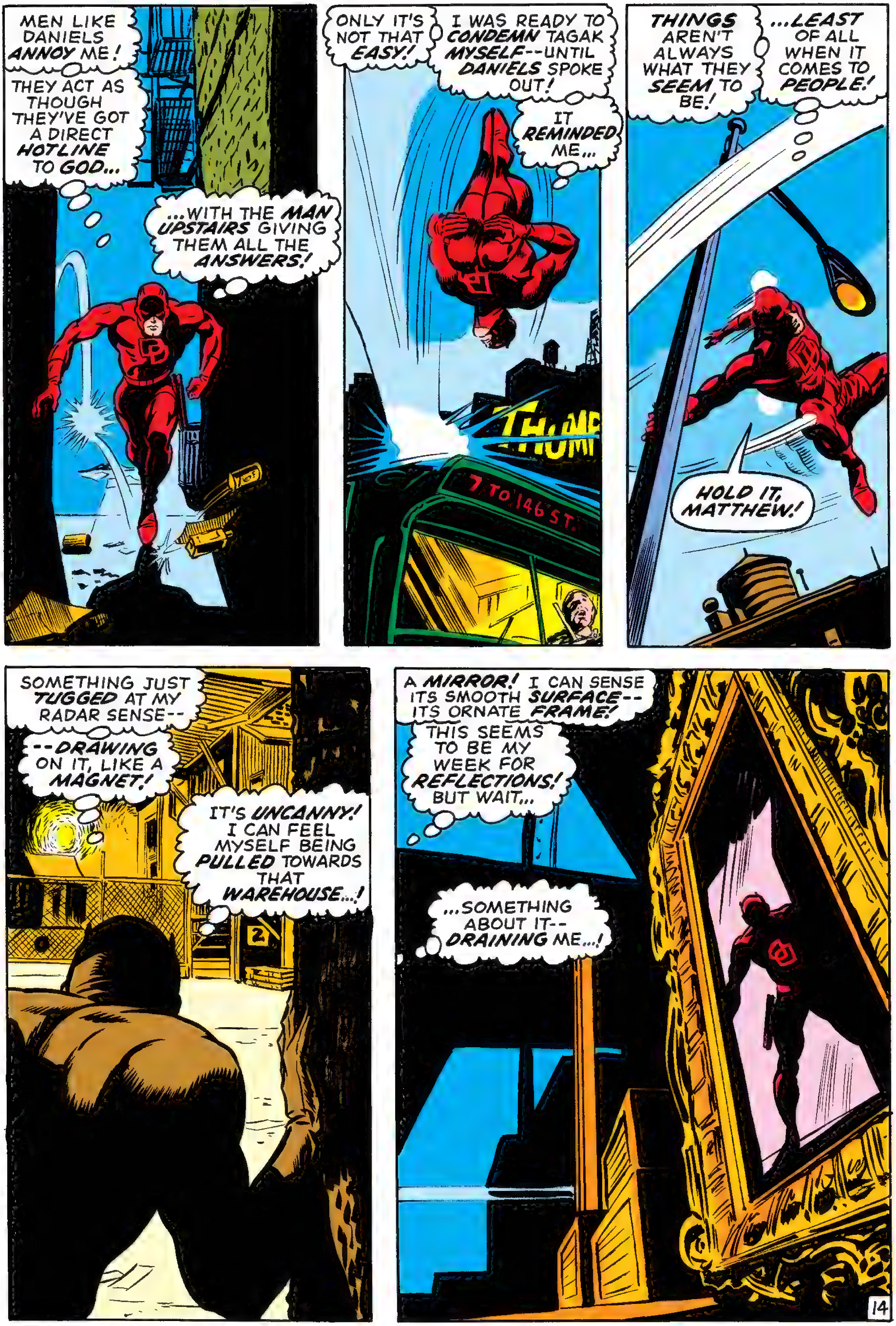

--GOT IT! NOW I'VE *REALLY* GOT TO MOVE...
...IF I'M NOT ALREADY *TOO LATE!*
CROWD BELOW--I CAN PRACTICALLY *SMELL* THEIR PANIC! WHY DIDN'T ONE OF THEM *HELP* THAT POLICEMAN??
DON'T ASK, DD--YOU ALREADY *KNOW* THE *ANSWER...*
IT'S *DAREDEVIL!*
GO *TO* IT, DD!
BAR
E
...IT'S YOUR *NON-INVOLVEMENT* SOCIETY--NOBODY WANTS TO PLAY THE *SAMARITAN!*
ALTHOUGH--I GUESS I *WOULD* THINK TWICE ABOUT TACKLING AN ATTACKING *LEOPARD...*
...IF I COULD *SEE!*
HANG TIGHT, DD--HERE COMES THE OL' MOMENT OF *TRUTH!*
OPAR--
NOW, NOW, KITTY--MUSTN'T PLAY WITH WHAT ISN'T *YOURS!*
WHAM
WATCH IT, MATTHEW! DON'T GET *TOO* COCKY!
THAT'S FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS OF LEOPARD...
...NOT A TEDDY BEAR!

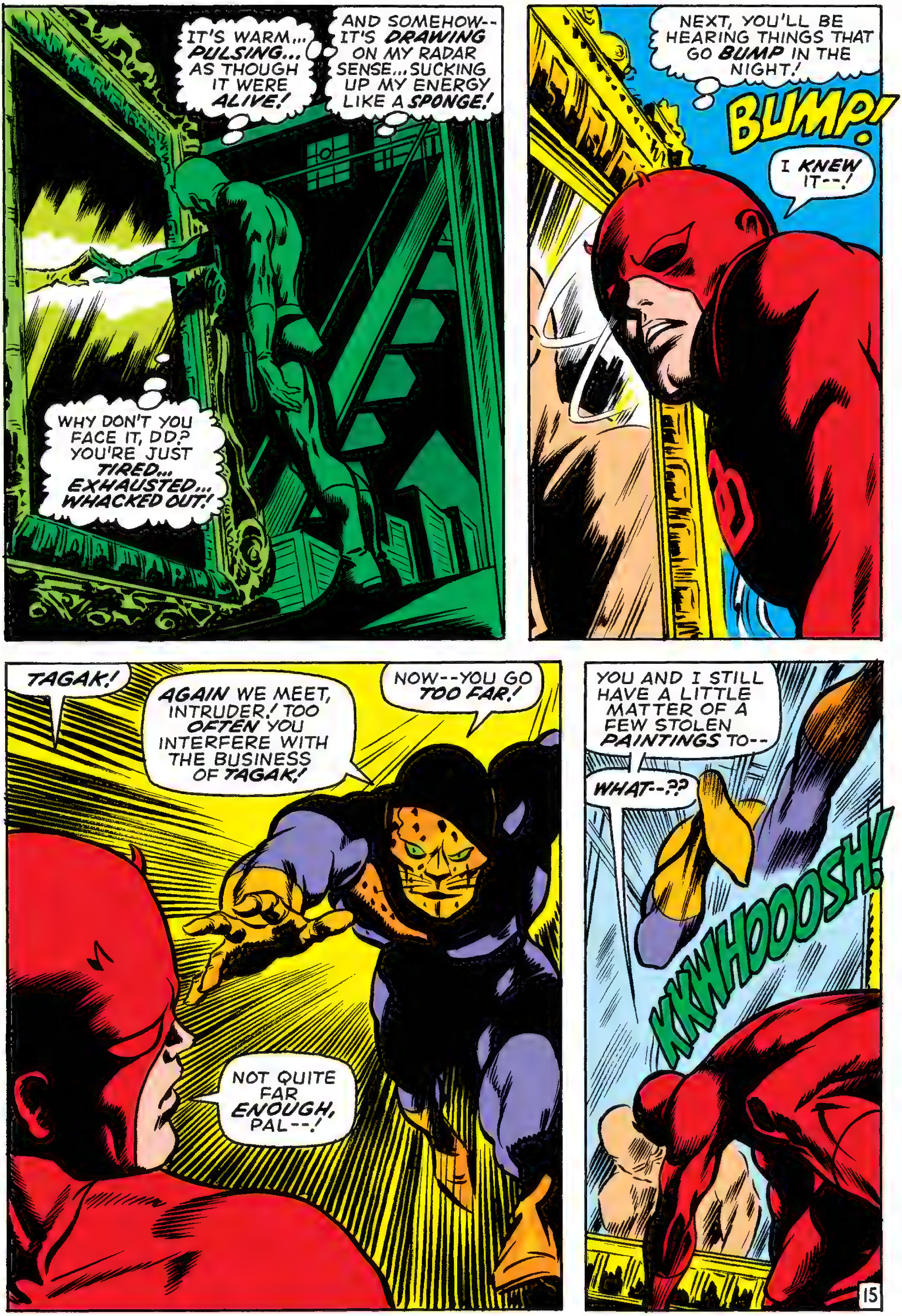

MUSCLES LIKE IRON BANDS TENSE--RELEASE--AND THE LEOPARD SPRINGS!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT, MR. MURDOCK--
--WELCOME TO "THIS IS YOUR LIFE!"
YOU'VE HAD IT!
OPAR--STOP! TAGAK COMMANDS IT!
NOW!
AT EASE, MY FRIEND! THERE MUST BE NO MORE KILLING!
HE IS NOT THE ONE WE SEEK!
COME! ONCE MORE, WE MUST TAKE UP THE HUNT!
DOCILE--JUST LIKE THAT--LIKE A LAMB!
WHAT SORT OF INSANE SCENE IS THIS?
MREEOOW?

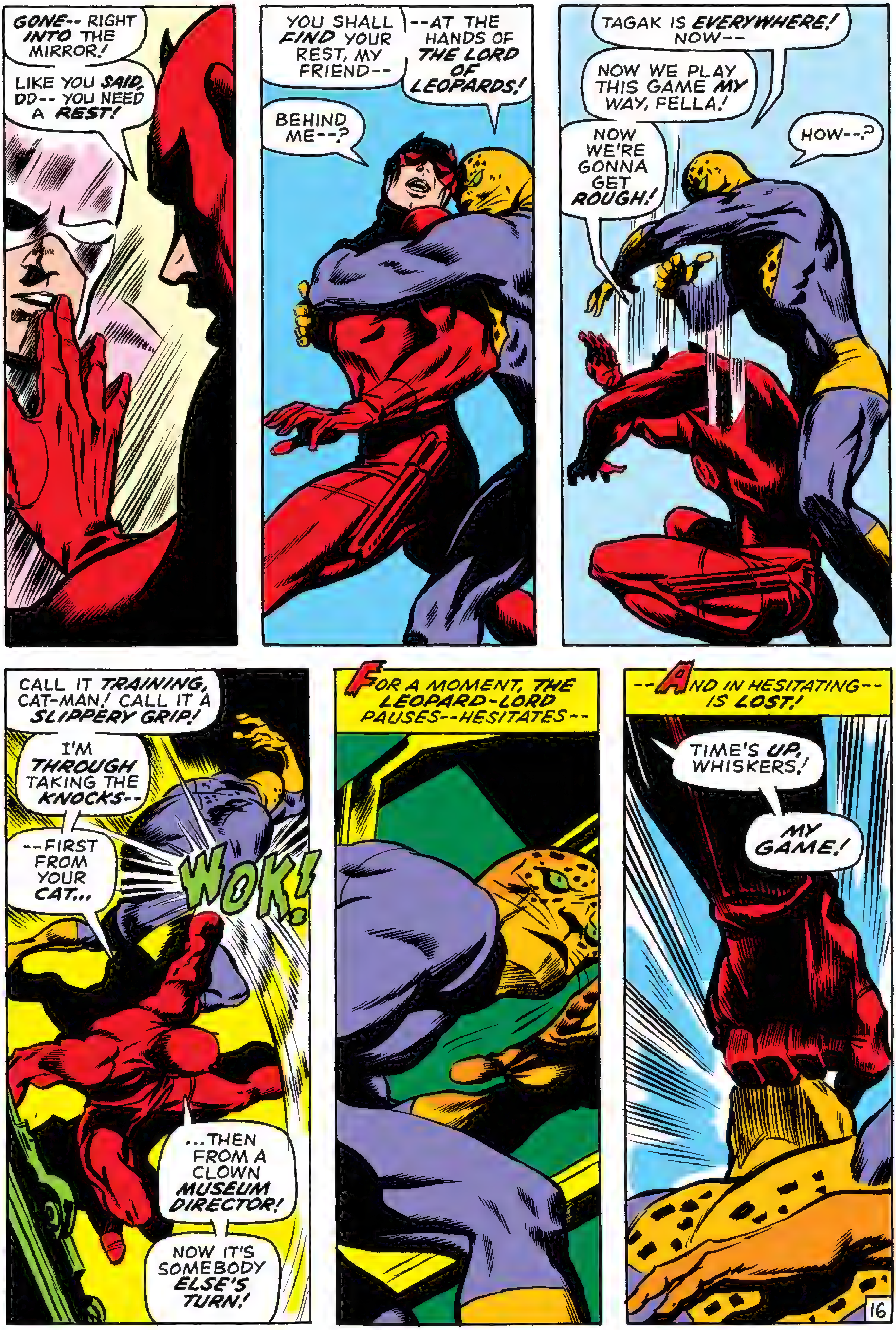

THESE ONES ARE *UNIMPORTANT!*
WE MUST FIND THE *OTHER!*
GO ON, FREAK-- BACK TO YOUR *ZOO!*
THEY TALK BIG *NOW,* DON'T THEY, DD?
THAT'S THE *WAY* OF THE WORLD, FRIEND! TAKE CARE OF THAT *ARM,* HEAR?
SPEAKING OF *ARMS*--I COULD'VE *LOST* MINE--IF *TAGAK* HADN'T CALLED OFF HIS LITTLE *PET*--!
WHICH LEADS US TO THE *QUESTION* OF THE EVENING!
WHY? WHAT DOES HE *WANT?*
WHO IS HE?
FOR THAT MATTER, MATTHEW--WHO ARE *YOU?*
A *BLIND* MAN... SO CAUGHT UP IN A *SIGHTED* SOCIETY...
...THAT YOU'VE EVEN GOT A A *MIRROR!*
A *MIRROR!*
FOR A MAN WHO CAN'T *SEE!*
THAT'S A LAUGH, ISN'T IT, *FRIEND?*
A *REAL LAUGH!*
SMASH!

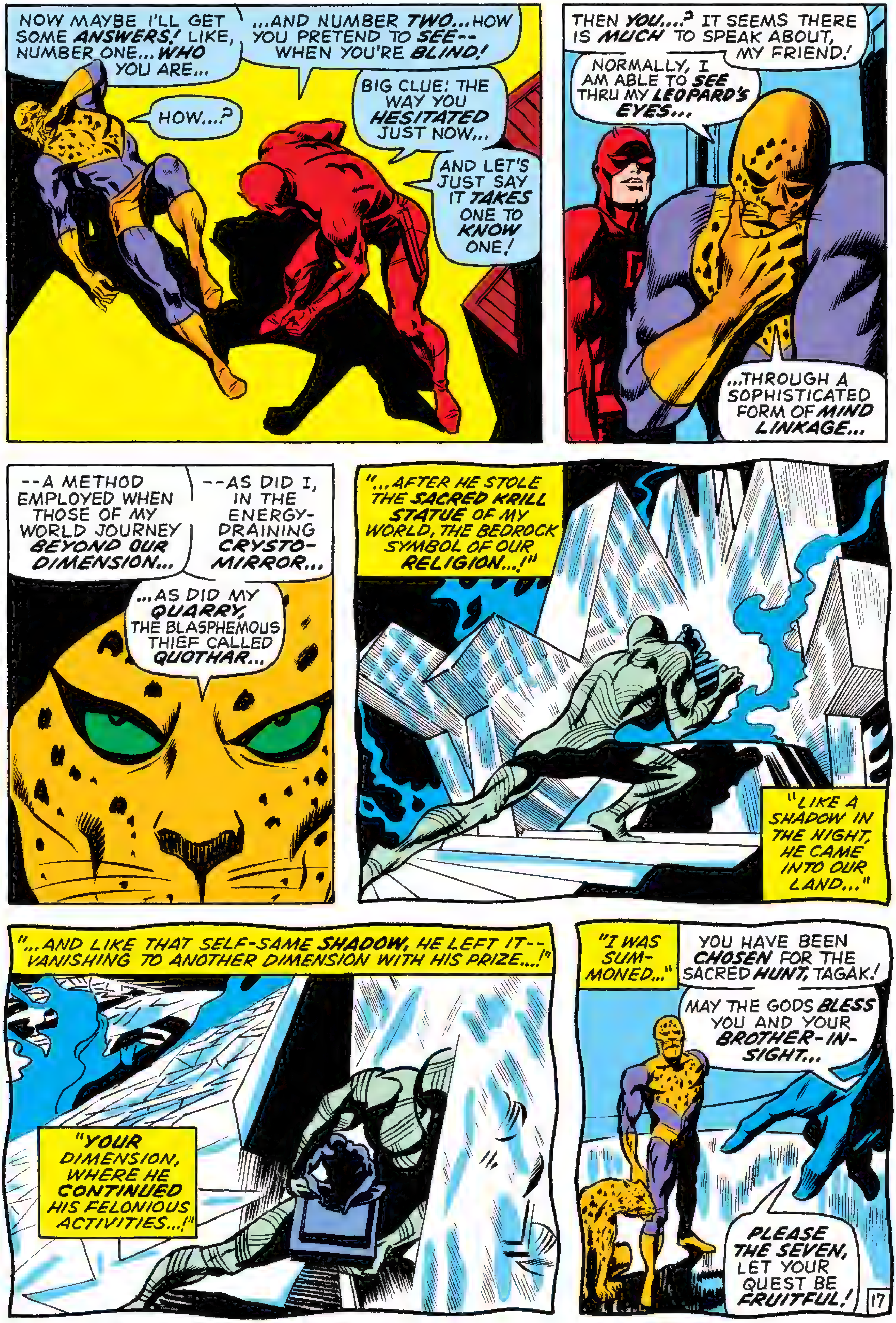

I UNDERSTAND NOW THAT IT WAS MY *FRUSTRATION* IN NOT BEING ABLE TO *HANDLE* TAGAK...
...THAT MADE ME ALMOST *SMASH* MY *FIST* ON THAT MIRROR!
SURE! I UNDERSTAND THAT *NOW*...
...WHICH DOES MY *HAND* A WHOLE *WORLD* OF GOOD!
BUT, PLAYING THE *WEEPING WILLOW* ISN'T GOING TO CATCH ME A *THIEF!*
IF IT *WAS* TAGAK, HE'S LONG *GONE*...
...AND MY *BEST* BET IS TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT *HAPPENED* AT THE *MUSEUM!*
12

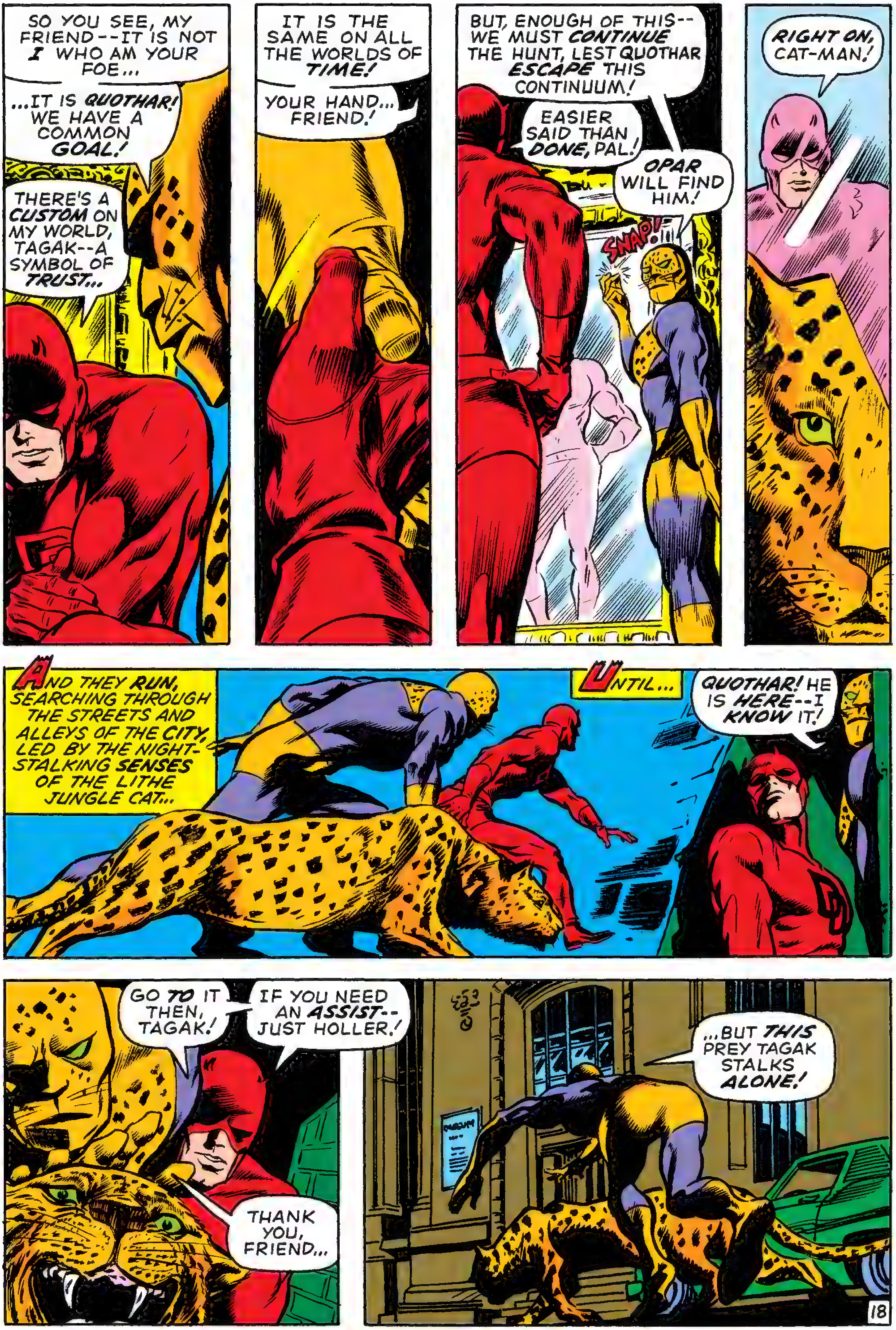

FOUR TIMES! NOT ONCE-- NOT *TWICE*... BUT *FOUR TIMES!*
I'M *TIRED* OF HAVING THIS MUSEUM TREATED LIKE A *LOANING LIBRARY*...
WE *KNOW* WHO'S RESPONSIBLE... AND YET THE POLICE *REFUSE* TO ACT!
"NO *EVIDENCE!*"
NO *EVIDENCE?* WHAT MORE DO THEY *NEED?* IT'S *GOT* TO BE THAT *LEOPARD-LORD* CHARACTER I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT!
GLAD TO HEAR YOU'RE SO *SURE*, DANIELS!
GUYS LIKE *ME* WOULD'VE MADE THE MISTAKE OF BEING *CERTAIN* BEFORE ACCUSING SOMEONE!
GUESS THE WORLD'S *LUCKY* TO HAVE A *NORMAN DANIELS* AROUND TO SORT THINGS *OUT!*
'NIGHT, DANIELS! YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT *HELP!*
13

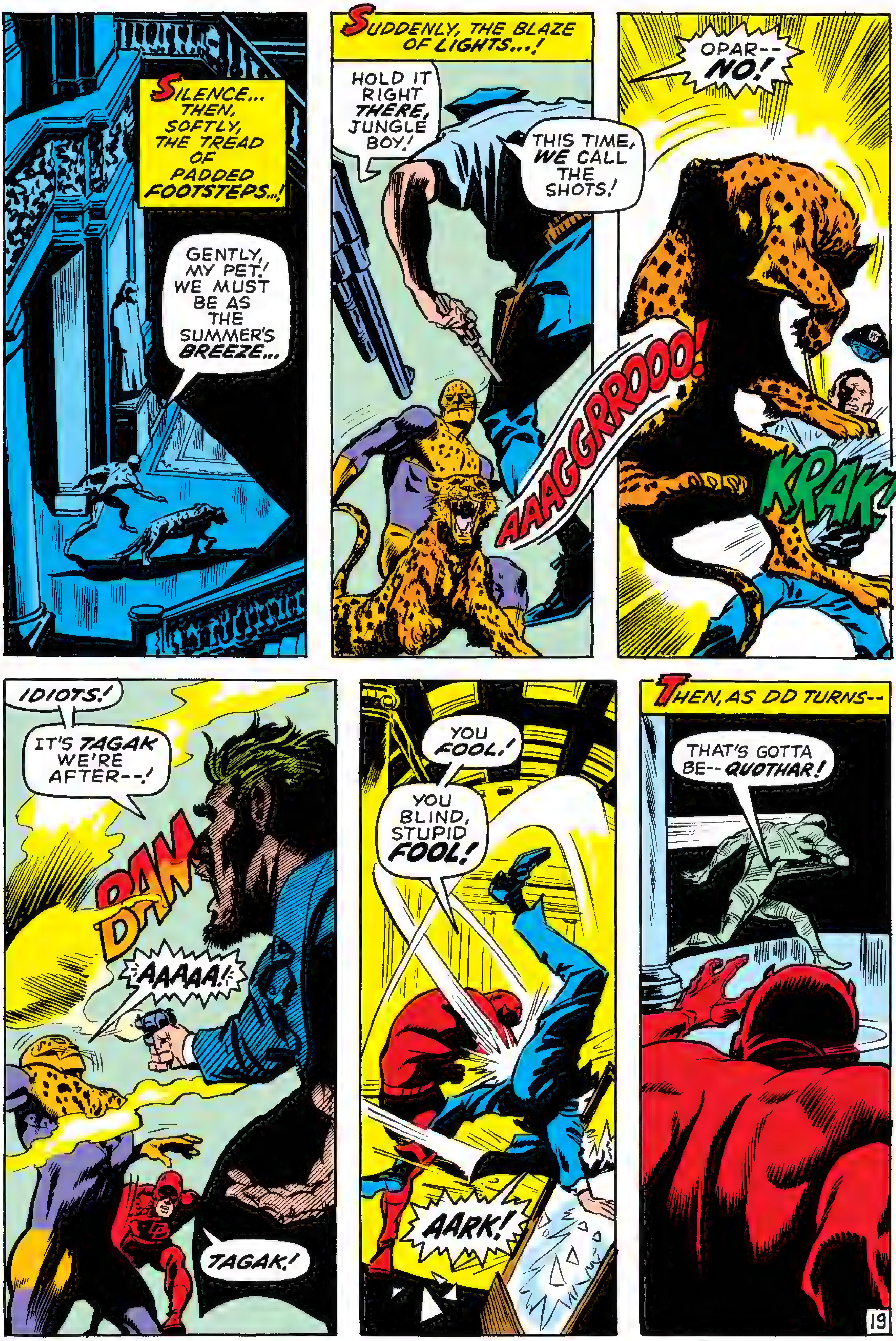

MEN LIKE DANIELS ANNOY ME!
THEY ACT AS THOUGH THEY'VE GOT A DIRECT HOTLINE TO GOD...
...WITH THE MAN UPSTAIRS GIVING THEM ALL THE ANSWERS!
ONLY IT'S NOT THAT EASY!
I WAS READY TO CONDEMN TAGAK MYSELF--UNTIL DANIELS SPOKE OUT!
IT REMINDED ME...
THOMP
7 TO 146 ST.
THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE!
...LEAST OF ALL WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE!
HOLD IT, MATTHEW!
SOMETHING JUST TUGGED AT MY RADAR SENSE--
--DRAWING ON IT, LIKE A MAGNET!
IT'S UNCANNY! I CAN FEEL MYSELF BEING PULLED TOWARDS THAT WAREHOUSE...!
2
A MIRROR! I CAN SENSE ITS SMOOTH SURFACE--ITS ORNATE FRAME!
THIS SEEMS TO BE MY WEEK FOR REFLECTIONS! BUT WAIT...
...SOMETHING ABOUT IT--DRAINING ME...!

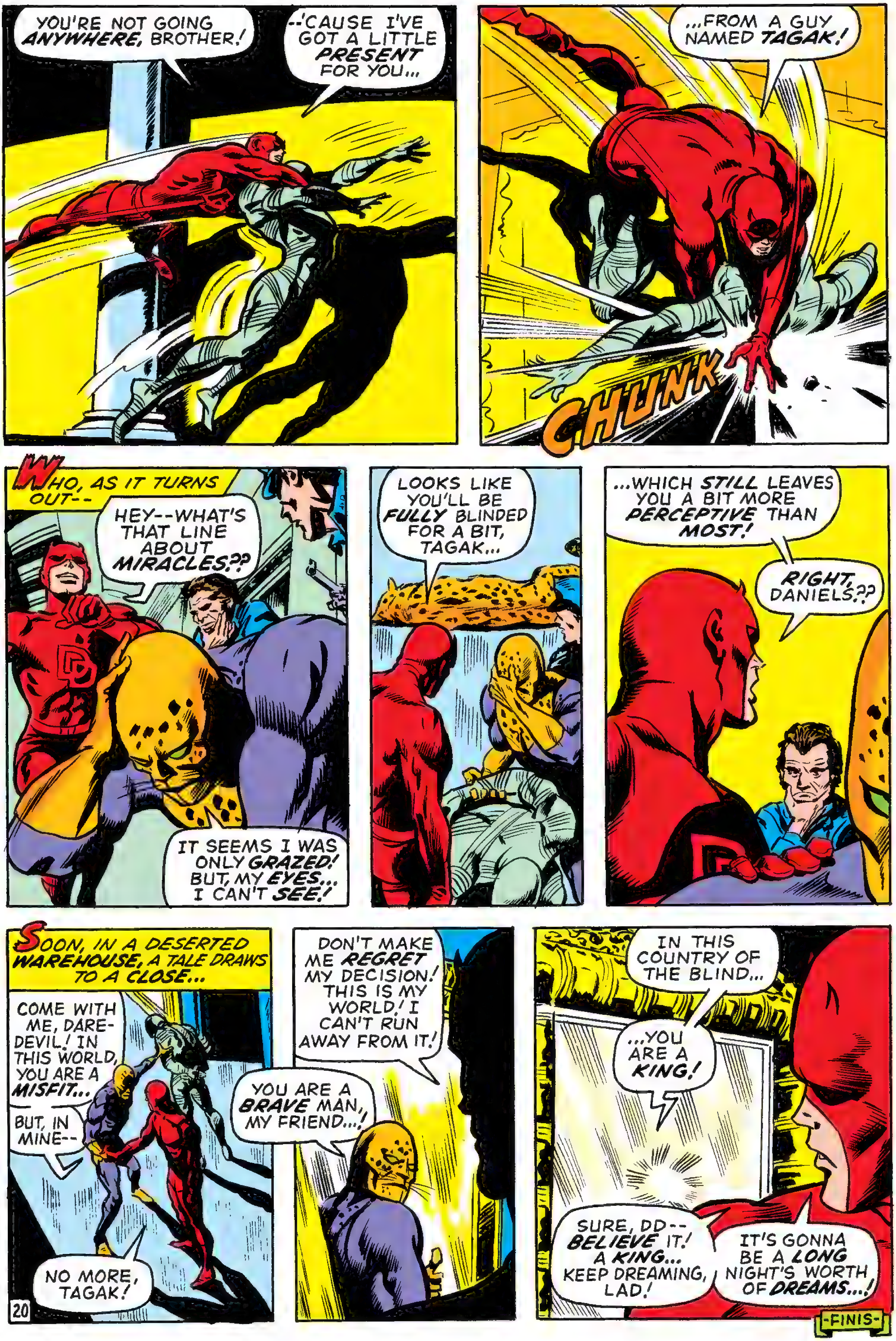

IT'S WARM... *PULSING...* AS THOUGH IT WERE *ALIVE!*
AND SOMEHOW-- IT'S *DRAWING* ON MY RADAR SENSE... SUCKING UP MY ENERGY LIKE A *SPONGE!*
WHY DON'T YOU FACE IT, DD? YOU'RE JUST *TIRED... EXHAUSTED... WHACKED OUT!*
NEXT, YOU'LL BE HEARING THINGS THAT GO *BUMP* IN THE NIGHT!
BUMP!
I *KNEW* IT--!
TAGAK!
AGAIN WE MEET, INTRUDER! TOO *OFTEN* YOU INTERFERE WITH THE BUSINESS OF *TAGAK!*
NOW--YOU GO *TOO FAR!*
NOT QUITE FAR *ENOUGH,* PAL--!
YOU AND I STILL HAVE A LITTLE MATTER OF A FEW STOLEN *PAINTINGS* TO--
WHAT--??
KKWHOOOSH!


GONE-- RIGHT INTO THE MIRROR!
LIKE YOU SAID, DD-- YOU NEED A REST!
YOU SHALL FIND YOUR REST, MY FRIEND--
--AT THE HANDS OF THE LORD OF LEOPARDS!
BEHIND ME--?
TAGAK IS EVERYWHERE! NOW--
NOW WE PLAY THIS GAME MY WAY, FELLA!
NOW WE'RE GONNA GET ROUGH!
HOW--?
CALL IT TRAINING, CAT-MAN! CALL IT A SLIPPERY GRIP!
I'M THROUGH TAKING THE KNOCKS--
--FIRST FROM YOUR CAT...
WOK!
...THEN FROM A CLOWN MUSEUM DIRECTOR!
NOW IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE'S TURN!
FOR A MOMENT, THE LEOPARD-LORD PAUSES--HESITATES--
--AND IN HESITATING--IS LOST!
TIME'S UP, WHISKERS!
MY GAME!


NOW MAYBE I'LL GET SOME **ANSWERS!** LIKE, NUMBER ONE... **WHO** YOU ARE...
...AND NUMBER **TWO**... HOW YOU PRETEND TO **SEE**-- WHEN YOU'RE **BLIND!**
HOW...?
BIG CLUE: THE WAY YOU **HESITATED** JUST NOW...
AND LET'S JUST SAY IT **TAKES** ONE TO **KNOW** ONE!
THEN **YOU**...? IT SEEMS THERE IS **MUCH** TO SPEAK ABOUT, MY FRIEND!
NORMALLY, I AM ABLE TO **SEE** THRU MY **LEOPARD'S EYES...**
...THROUGH A SOPHISTICATED FORM OF **MIND LINKAGE...**
--A METHOD EMPLOYED WHEN THOSE OF MY WORLD JOURNEY **BEYOND OUR DIMENSION...**
--AS DID I, IN THE ENERGY-DRAINING **CRYSTO-MIRROR...**
...AS DID MY **QUARRY,** THE BLASPHEMOUS THIEF CALLED **QUOTHAR...**
"...AFTER HE STOLE THE **SACRED KRILL STATUE** OF MY WORLD, THE BEDROCK SYMBOL OF OUR **RELIGION...!**"
"LIKE A SHADOW IN THE NIGHT, HE CAME INTO OUR LAND..."
"...AND LIKE THAT SELF-SAME **SHADOW,** HE LEFT IT--VANISHING TO ANOTHER DIMENSION WITH HIS PRIZE...!"
"**YOUR** DIMENSION, WHERE HE **CONTINUED** HIS FELONIOUS ACTIVITIES...!"
"I WAS SUMMONED..."
YOU HAVE BEEN **CHOSEN** FOR THE SACRED **HUNT,** TAGAK!
MAY THE GODS **BLESS** YOU AND YOUR **BROTHER-IN-SIGHT...**
PLEASE THE SEVEN, LET YOUR QUEST BE **FRUITFUL!**

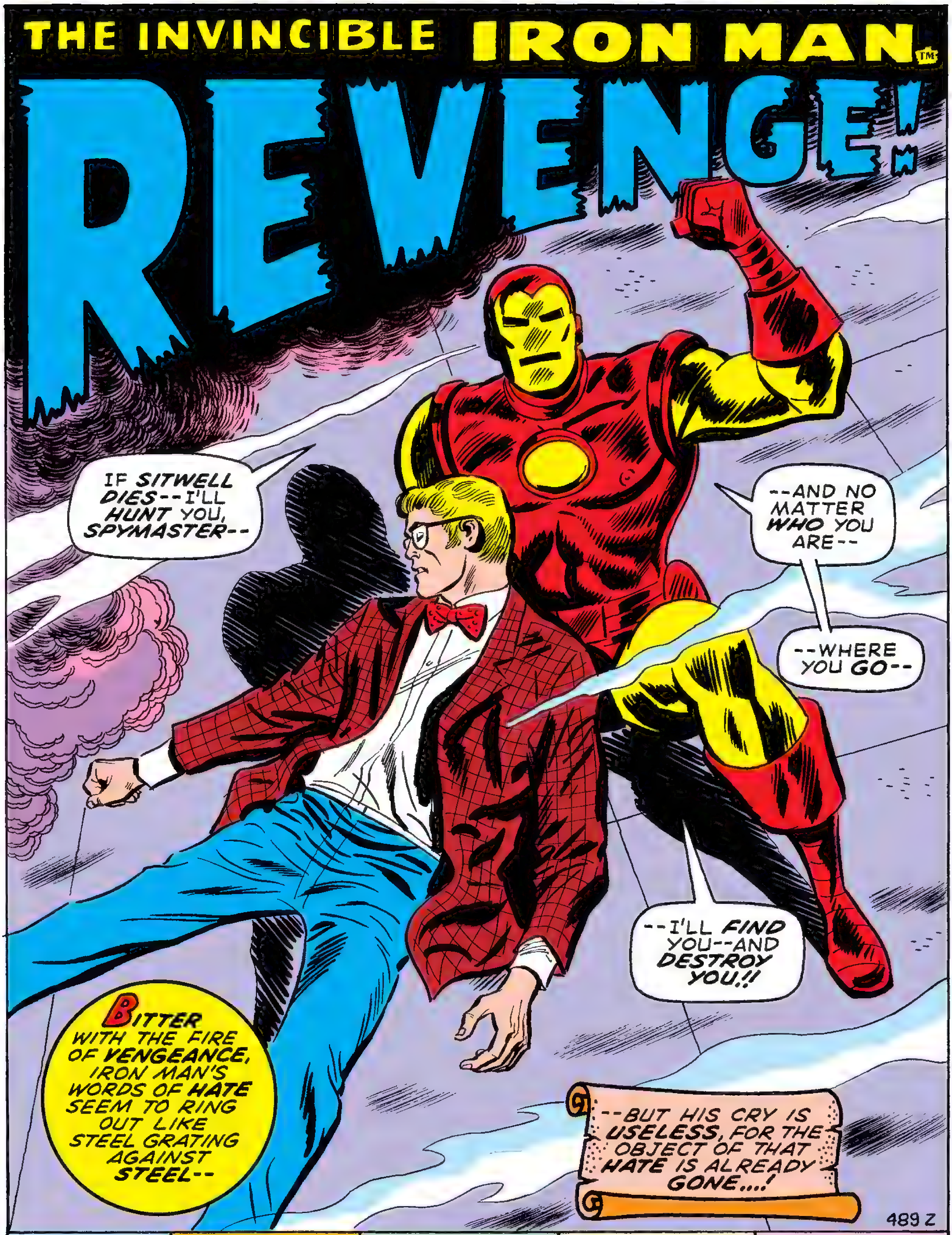

SO YOU SEE, MY FRIEND--IT IS NOT *I* WHO AM YOUR FOE...
...IT IS **QUOTHAR!** WE HAVE A COMMON **GOAL!**
THERE'S A **CUSTOM** ON MY WORLD, TAGAK--A SYMBOL OF **TRUST...**
IT IS THE SAME ON ALL THE WORLDS OF **TIME!**
YOUR HAND... FRIEND!
BUT, ENOUGH OF THIS--WE MUST **CONTINUE** THE HUNT, LEST QUOTHAR **ESCAPE** THIS CONTINUUM!
EASIER SAID THAN **DONE,** PAL!
OPAR WILL FIND HIM!
SNAP!
RIGHT ON, CAT-MAN!
AND THEY **RUN,** SEARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS AND ALLEYS OF THE CITY, LED BY THE NIGHT-STALKING **SENSES** OF THE LITHE JUNGLE CAT...
UNTIL...
QUOTHAR! HE IS **HERE--I KNOW** IT!
GO **TO** IT THEN, TAGAK!
IF YOU NEED AN **ASSIST--** JUST HOLLER!
THANK YOU, FRIEND...
...BUT **THIS** PREY TAGAK STALKS **ALONE!**


SILENCE... THEN, SOFTLY, THE TREAD OF PADDED FOOTSTEPS...!
GENTLY, MY PET! WE MUST BE AS THE SUMMER'S BREEZE...
SUDDENLY, THE BLAZE OF LIGHTS...!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, JUNGLE BOY!
THIS TIME, WE CALL THE SHOTS!
AAAGGRROOO!
OPAR-- NO!
KRAK!
IDIOTS!
IT'S TAGAK WE'RE AFTER--!
BLAM
AAAAA!
TAGAK!
YOU FOOL!
YOU BLIND, STUPID FOOL!
AARK!
THEN, AS DD TURNS--
THAT'S GOTTA BE-- QUOTHAR!


YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE*, BROTHER!
--'CAUSE I'VE GOT A LITTLE *PRESENT* FOR YOU...
...FROM A GUY NAMED *TAGAK!*
CHUNK
WHO, AS IT TURNS OUT--
HEY--WHAT'S THAT LINE ABOUT *MIRACLES??*
IT SEEMS I WAS ONLY *GRAZED!* BUT, MY *EYES*... I CAN'T *SEE!*
LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE *FULLY* BLINDED FOR A BIT, TAGAK...
...WHICH *STILL* LEAVES YOU A BIT MORE *PERCEPTIVE* THAN *MOST!*
RIGHT, DANIELS??
SOON, IN A DESERTED *WAREHOUSE*, A TALE DRAWS TO A *CLOSE*...
COME WITH ME, DAREDEVIL! IN THIS WORLD, YOU ARE A *MISFIT*...
BUT, IN MINE--
NO MORE, TAGAK!
20
DON'T MAKE ME *REGRET* MY DECISION! THIS IS MY WORLD! I CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM IT!
YOU ARE A *BRAVE* MAN, MY FRIEND...!
IN THIS COUNTRY OF THE BLIND...
...YOU ARE A *KING!*
SURE, DD-- *BELIEVE* IT! A *KING*... KEEP DREAMING, LAD!
IT'S GONNA BE A *LONG* NIGHT'S WORTH OF *DREAMS*...!

-FINIS-

IRON MAN
15¢
35
MAR
CC
THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
DON'T DO IT, FURY!
IF YOU TOUCH THE ZODIAC KEY-- YOU'LL BECOME THE MOST DANGEROUS MENACE ON EARTH!
I--DON'T WANT TO, AVENGER--
BUT--I CAN'T STOP MYSELF--!
GUEST-STARRING: NICK FURY-- AND THE MAN CALLED DAREDEVIL!


THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™
REVENGE!
IF SITWELL DIES--I'LL HUNT YOU, SPYMASTER--
--AND NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE--
--WHERE YOU GO--
--I'LL FIND YOU--AND DESTROY YOU!!
BITTER WITH THE FIRE OF VENGEANCE, IRON MAN'S WORDS OF HATE SEEM TO RING OUT LIKE STEEL GRATING AGAINST STEEL--
--BUT HIS CRY IS USELESS, FOR THE OBJECT OF THAT HATE IS ALREADY GONE....!
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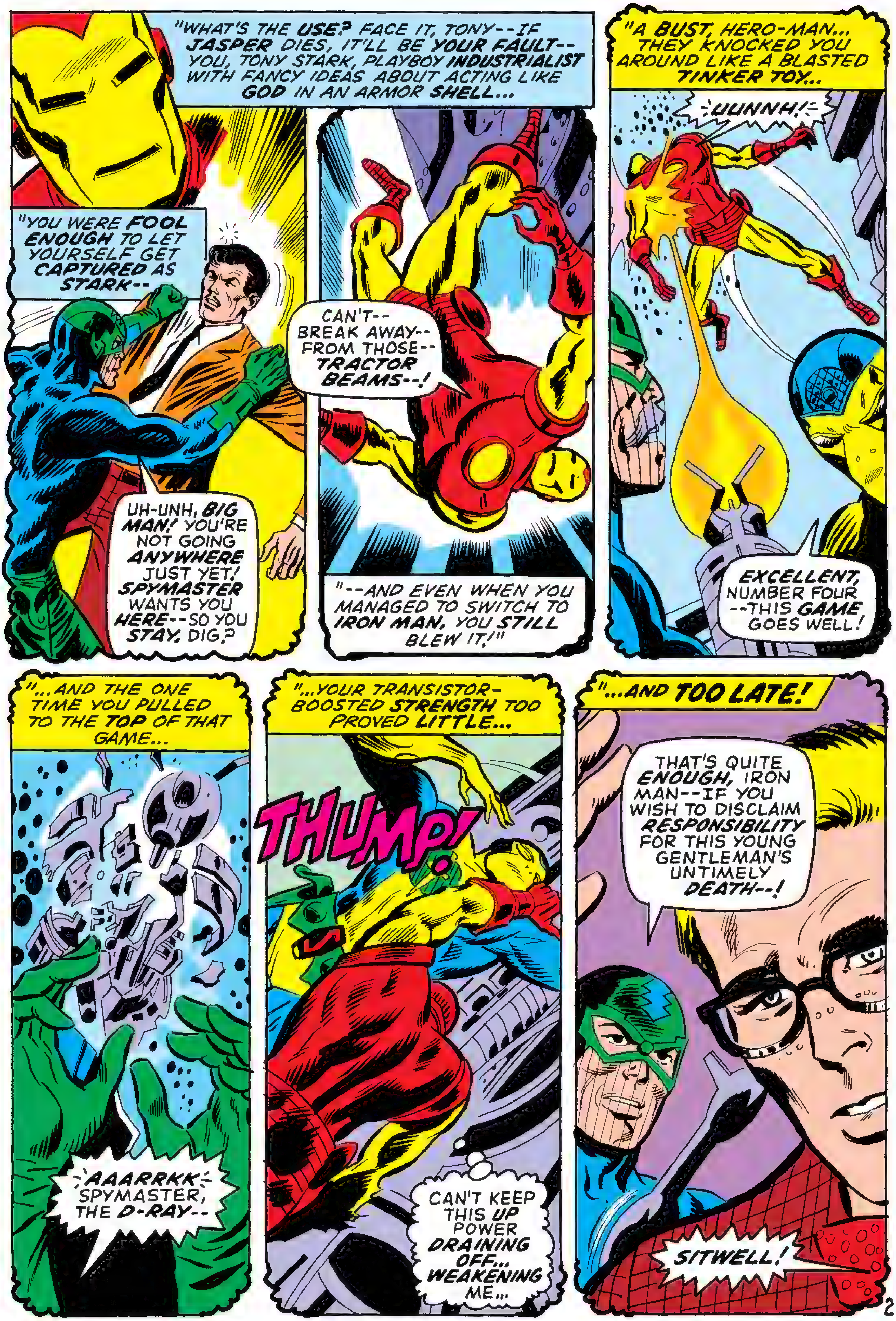
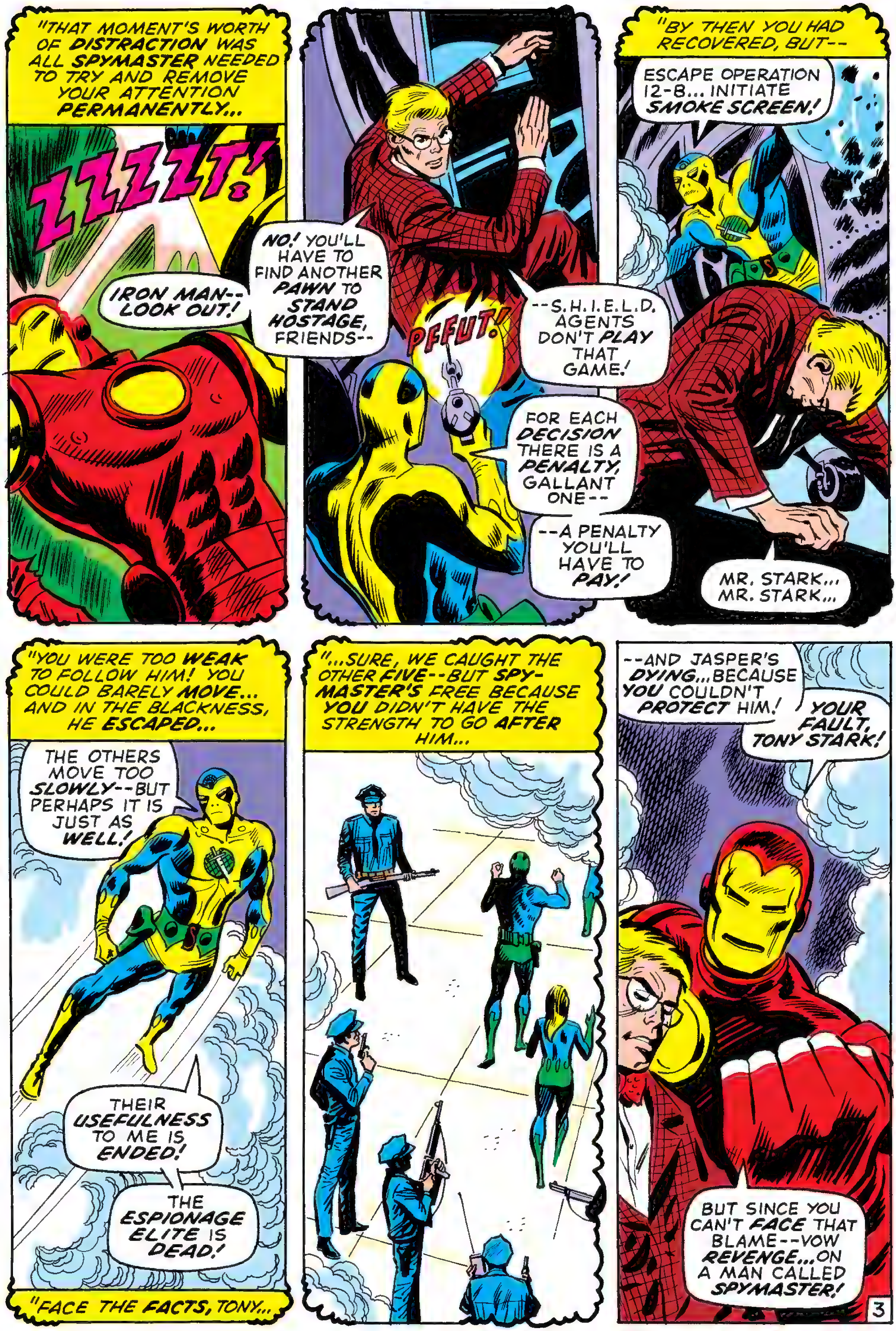
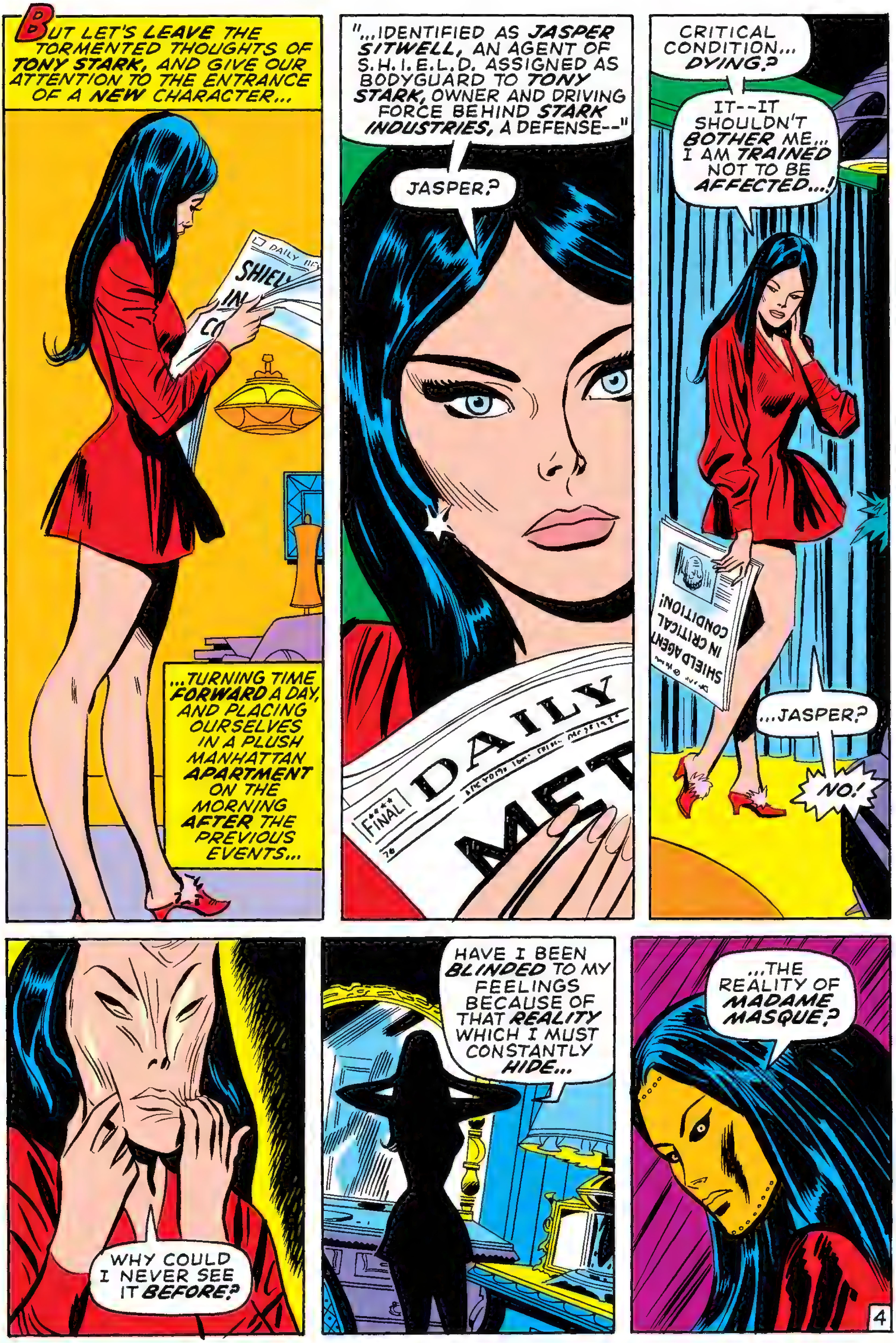
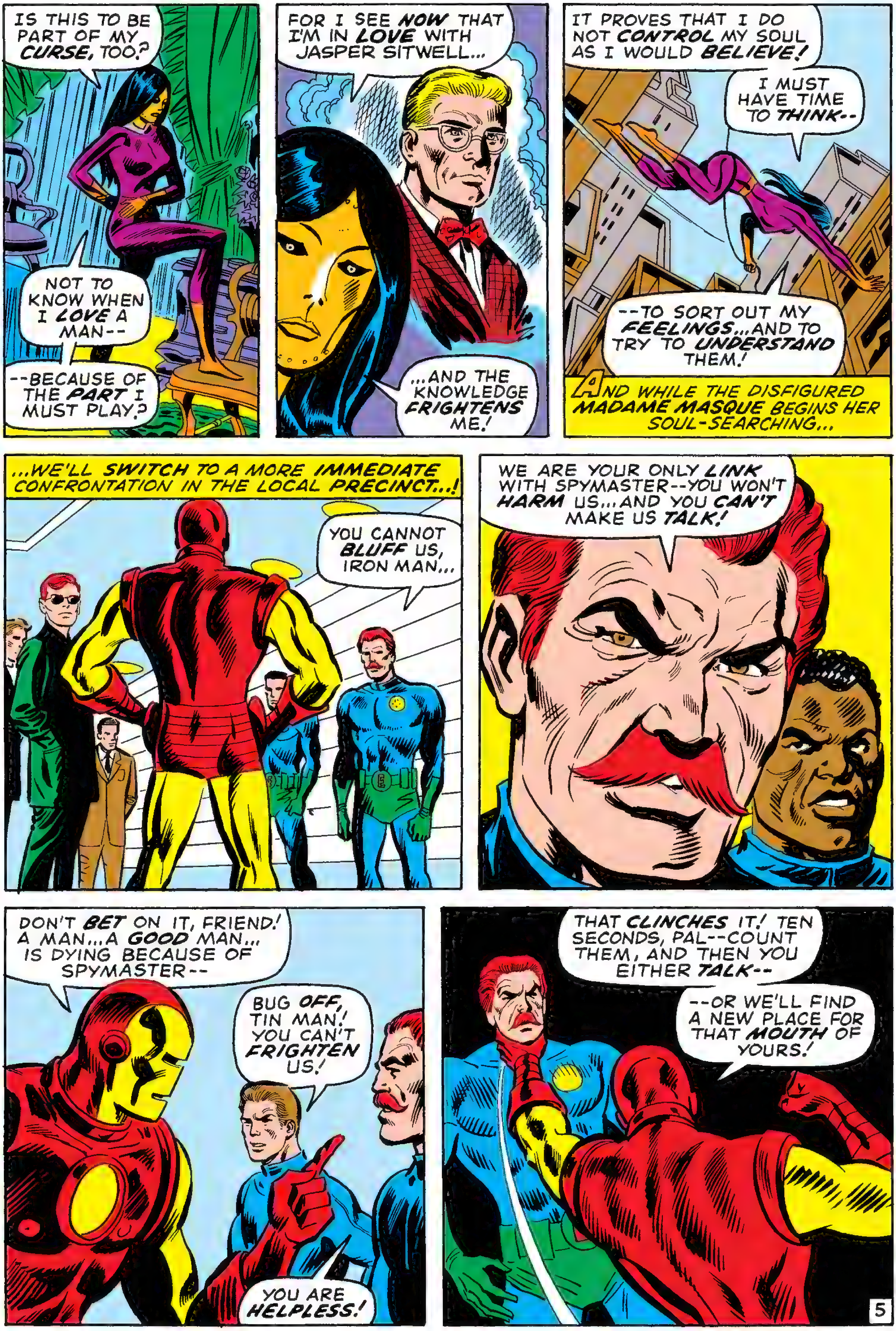
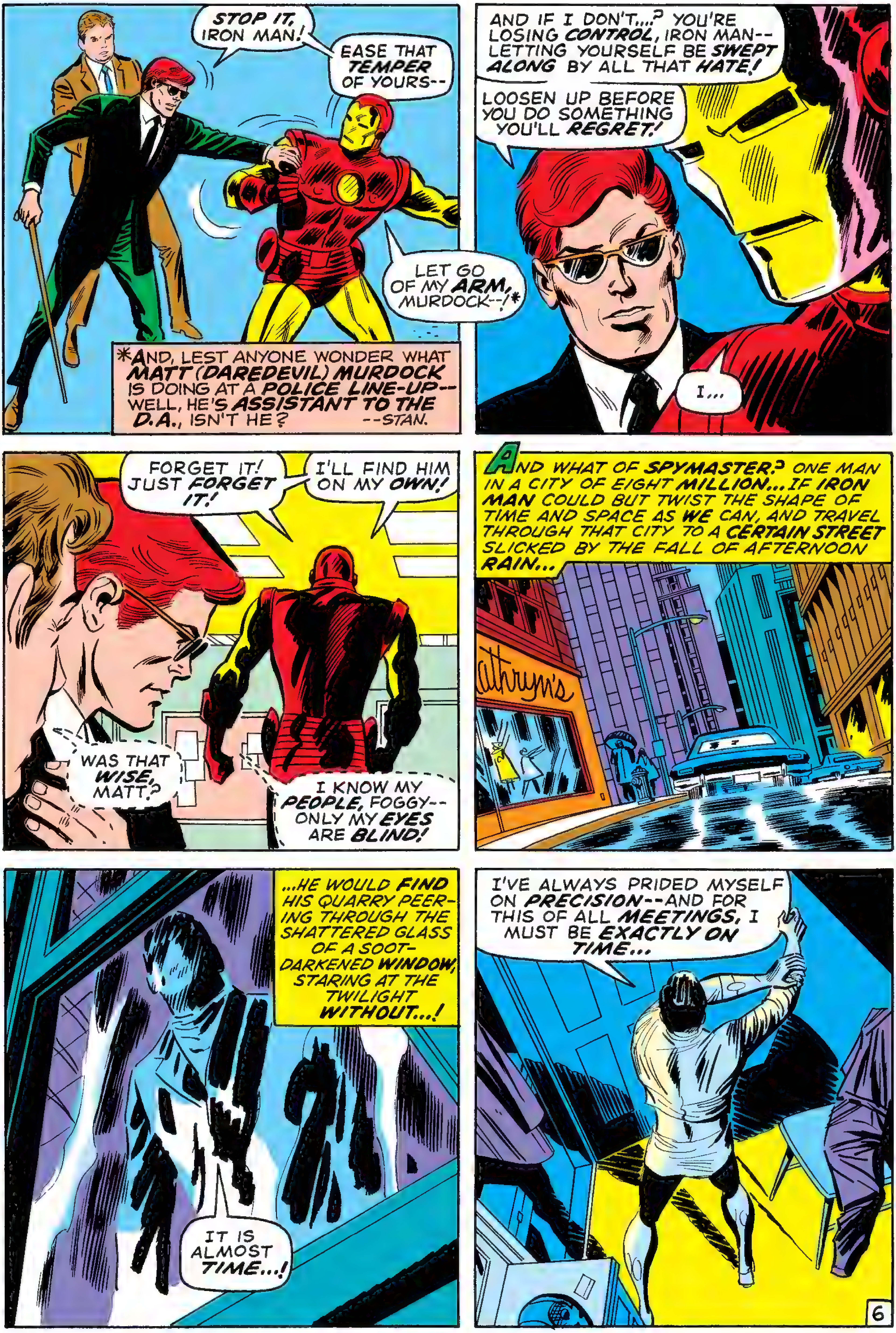
STAN LEE EDITOR	GERRY CONWAY WRITER	DON HECK ARTIST	MIKE ESPOSITO INKER	ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER

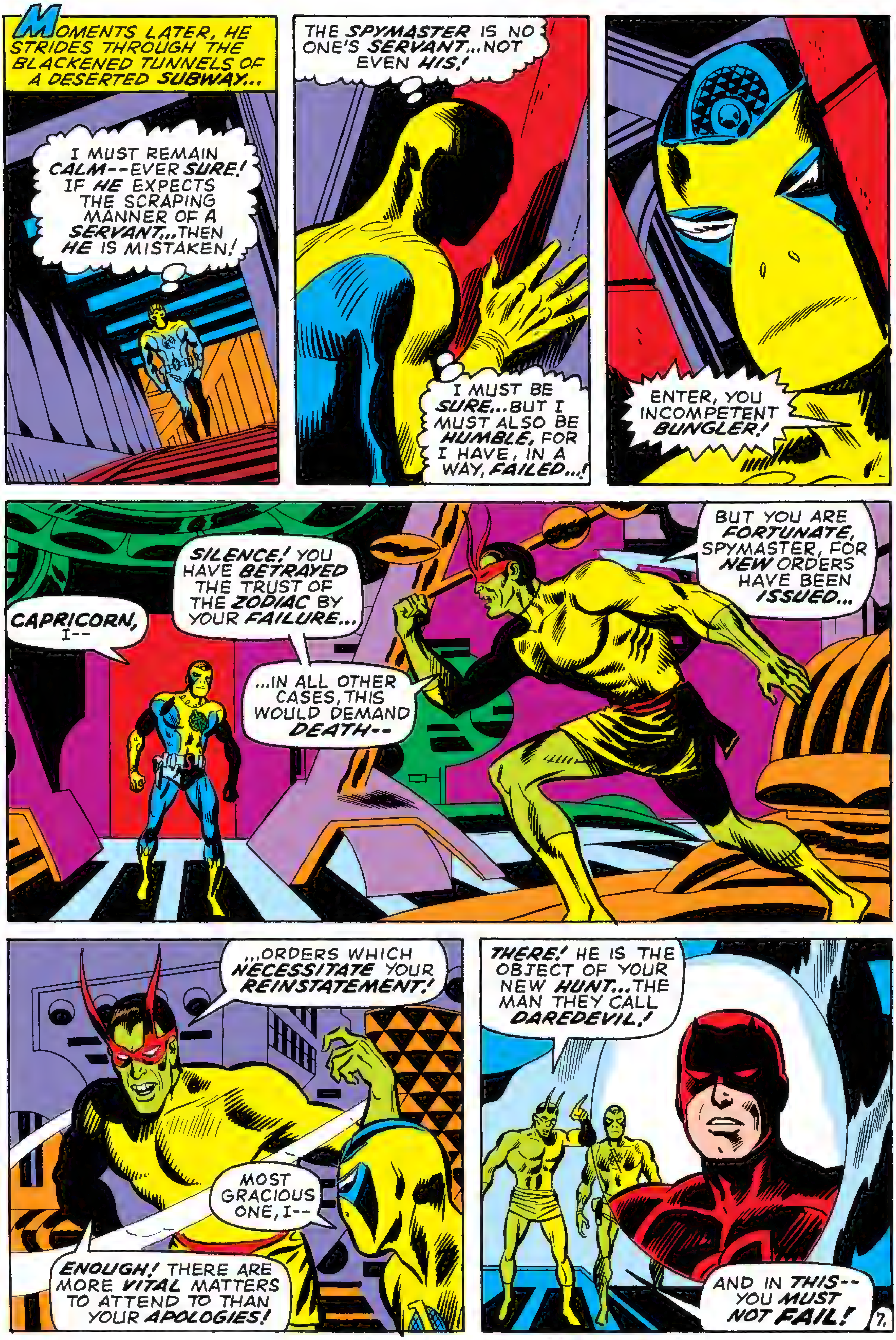

"WHAT'S THE USE? FACE IT, TONY--IF JASPER DIES, IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT--YOU, TONY STARK, PLAYBOY INDUSTRIALIST WITH FANCY IDEAS ABOUT ACTING LIKE GOD IN AN ARMOR SHELL...
"YOU WERE FOOL ENOUGH TO LET YOURSELF GET CAPTURED AS STARK--
UH-UNH, BIG MAN! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE JUST YET! SPYMASTER WANTS YOU HERE--SO YOU STAY, DIG?
CAN'T--BREAK AWAY--FROM THOSE--TRACTOR BEAMS--!
"--AND EVEN WHEN YOU MANAGED TO SWITCH TO IRON MAN, YOU STILL BLEW IT!"
"A BUST, HERO-MAN... THEY KNOCKED YOU AROUND LIKE A BLASTED TINKER TOY...
UUNNH!
EXCELLENT, NUMBER FOUR--THIS GAME GOES WELL!
"...AND THE ONE TIME YOU PULLED TO THE TOP OF THAT GAME...
AAARRKK SPYMASTER, THE D-RAY--
"...YOUR TRANSISTOR-BOOSTED STRENGTH TOO PROVED LITTLE...
THUMP!
CAN'T KEEP THIS UP POWER DRAINING OFF... WEAKENING ME...
"...AND TOO LATE!
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH, IRON MAN--IF YOU WISH TO DISCLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS YOUNG GENTLEMAN'S UNTIMELY DEATH--!
SITWELL!

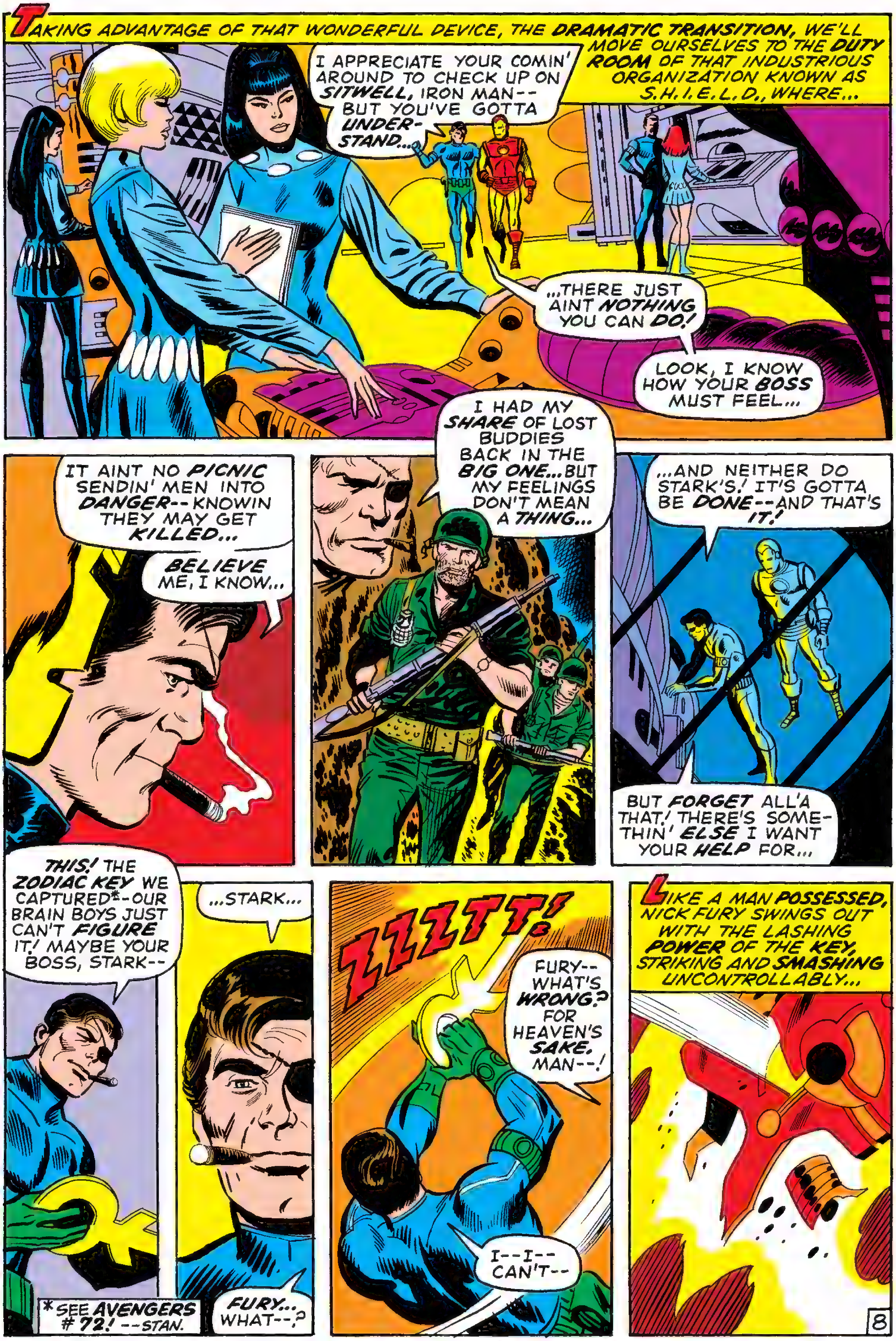

"THAT MOMENT'S WORTH OF DISTRACTION WAS ALL SPYMASTER NEEDED TO TRY AND REMOVE YOUR ATTENTION PERMANENTLY...
ZZZZZT!
IRON MAN-- LOOK OUT!
NO! YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER PAWN TO STAND HOSTAGE, FRIENDS--
--S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS DON'T PLAY THAT GAME!
PFFUT!
FOR EACH DECISION THERE IS A PENALTY, GALLANT ONE--
--A PENALTY YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY!
"BY THEN YOU HAD RECOVERED, BUT--
ESCAPE OPERATION 12-B... INITIATE SMOKE SCREEN!
MR. STARK... MR. STARK...
"YOU WERE TOO WEAK TO FOLLOW HIM! YOU COULD BARELY MOVE... AND IN THE BLACKNESS, HE ESCAPED...
THE OTHERS MOVE TOO SLOWLY--BUT PERHAPS IT IS JUST AS WELL!
THEIR USEFULNESS TO ME IS ENDED!
THE ESPIONAGE ELITE IS DEAD!
"FACE THE FACTS, TONY...
"...SURE, WE CAUGHT THE OTHER FIVE--BUT SPYMASTER'S FREE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO GO AFTER HIM...
--AND JASPER'S DYING... BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T PROTECT HIM!
YOUR FAULT, TONY STARK!
BUT SINCE YOU CAN'T FACE THAT BLAME--VOW REVENGE... ON A MAN CALLED SPYMASTER!

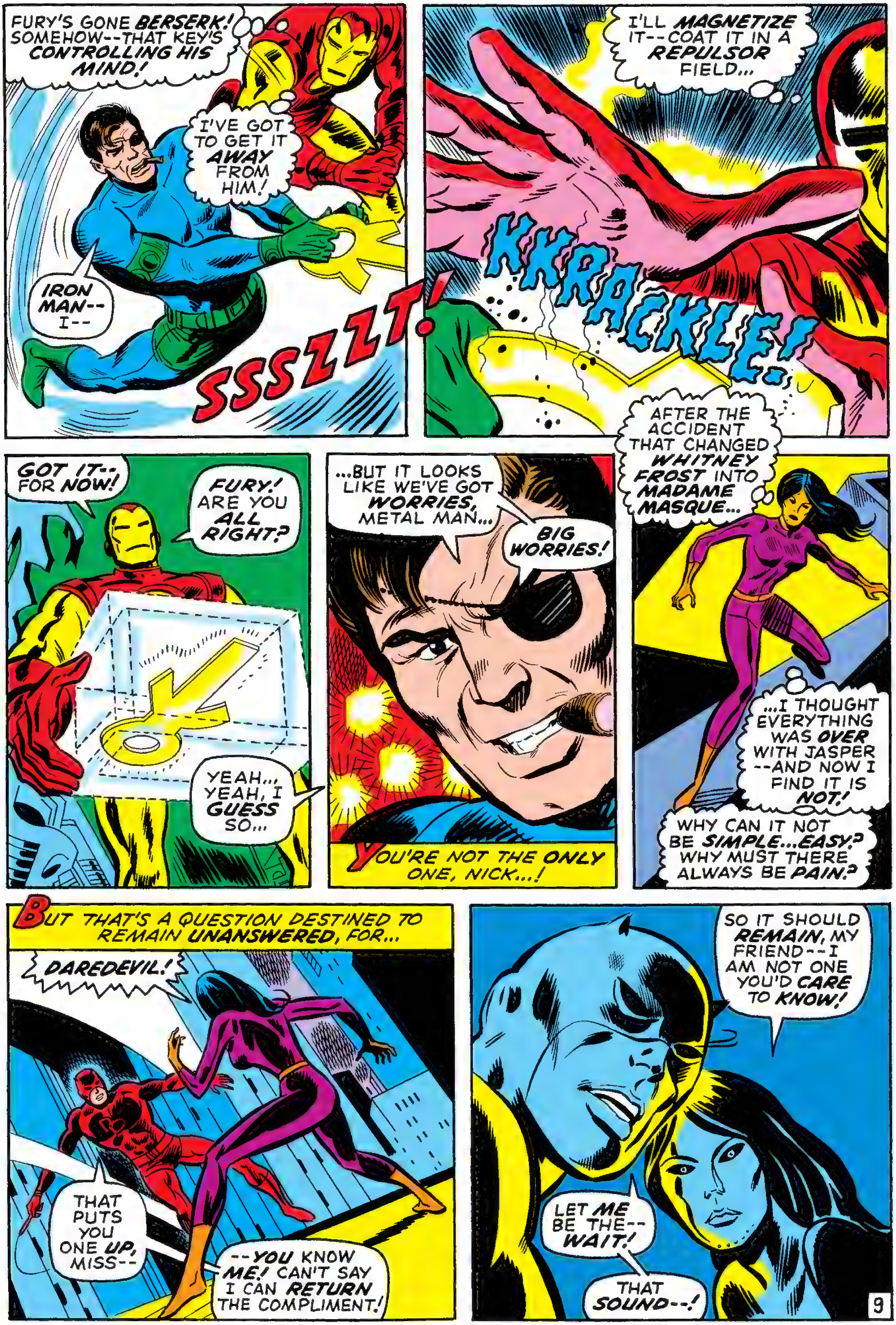

BUT LET'S LEAVE THE TORMENTED THOUGHTS OF TONY STARK, AND GIVE OUR ATTENTION TO THE ENTRANCE OF A NEW CHARACTER...
DAILY
SHIEL
IN
C
...TURNING TIME FORWARD A DAY, AND PLACING OURSELVES IN A PLUSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT ON THE MORNING AFTER THE PREVIOUS EVENTS...
"...IDENTIFIED AS JASPER SITWELL, AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. ASSIGNED AS BODYGUARD TO TONY STARK, OWNER AND DRIVING FORCE BEHIND STARK INDUSTRIES, A DEFENSE--"
JASPER?
FINAL
DAILY
MET
CRITICAL CONDITION... DYING?
IT--IT SHOULDN'T BOTHER ME... I AM TRAINED NOT TO BE AFFECTED...!
SHIELD AGENT IN CRITICAL CONDITION!
...JASPER?
NO!
WHY COULD I NEVER SEE IT BEFORE?
HAVE I BEEN BLINDED TO MY FEELINGS BECAUSE OF THAT REALITY WHICH I MUST CONSTANTLY HIDE...
...THE REALITY OF MADAME MASQUE?

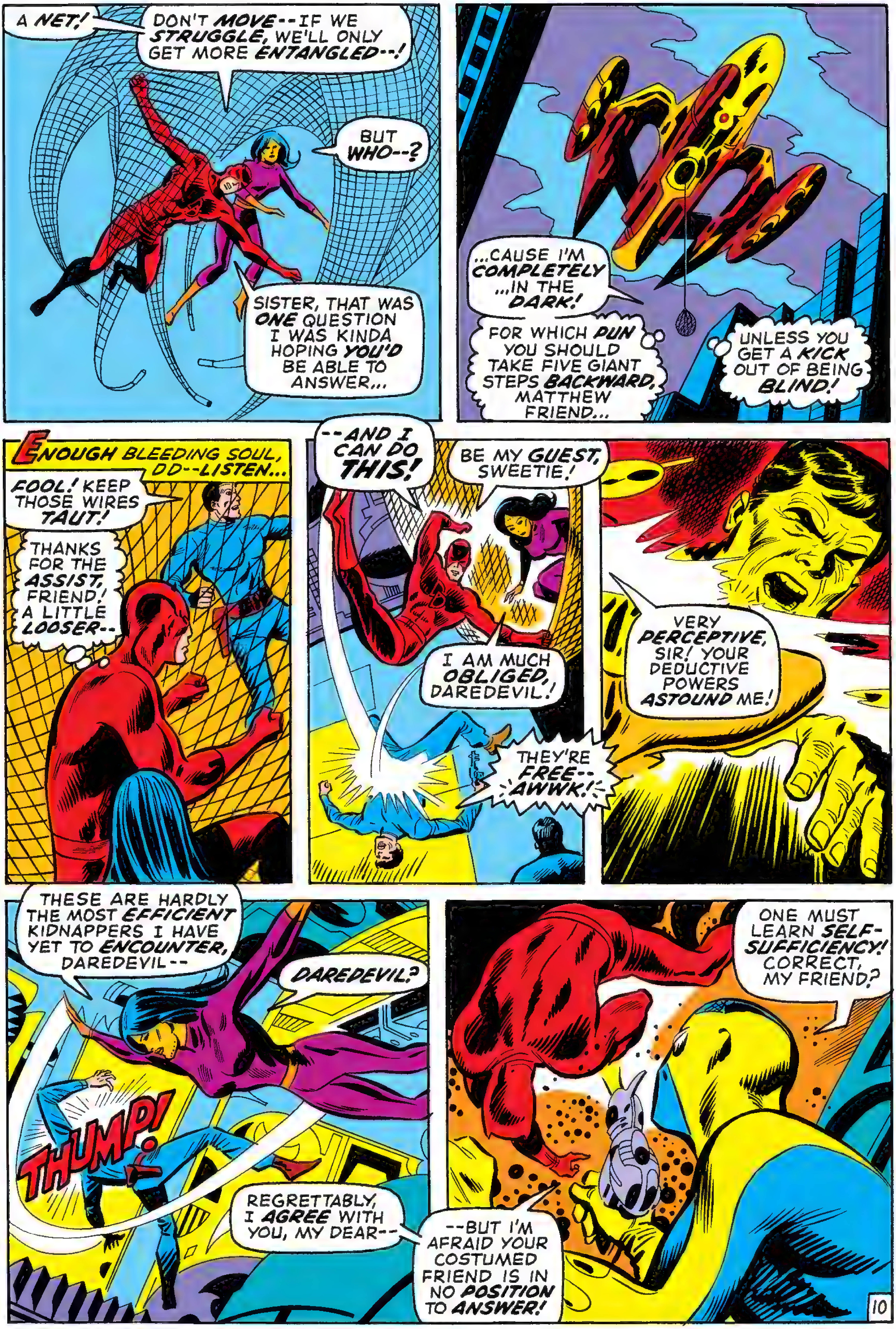

IS THIS TO BE PART OF MY CURSE, TOO?
NOT TO KNOW WHEN I LOVE A MAN--
--BECAUSE OF THE PART I MUST PLAY?
FOR I SEE NOW THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH JASPER SITWELL...
...AND THE KNOWLEDGE FRIGHTENS ME!
IT PROVES THAT I DO NOT CONTROL MY SOUL AS I WOULD BELIEVE!
I MUST HAVE TIME TO THINK--
--TO SORT OUT MY FEELINGS...AND TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THEM!
AND WHILE THE DISFIGURED MADAME MASQUE BEGINS HER SOUL-SEARCHING...
...WE'LL SWITCH TO A MORE IMMEDIATE CONFRONTATION IN THE LOCAL PRECINCT...!
YOU CANNOT BLUFF US, IRON MAN...
WE ARE YOUR ONLY LINK WITH SPYMASTER--YOU WON'T HARM US...AND YOU CAN'T MAKE US TALK!
DON'T BET ON IT, FRIEND! A MAN...A GOOD MAN...IS DYING BECAUSE OF SPYMASTER--
BUG OFF, TIN MAN! YOU CAN'T FRIGHTEN US!
YOU ARE HELPLESS!
THAT CLINCHES IT! TEN SECONDS, PAL--COUNT THEM, AND THEN YOU EITHER TALK--
--OR WE'LL FIND A NEW PLACE FOR THAT MOUTH OF YOURS!

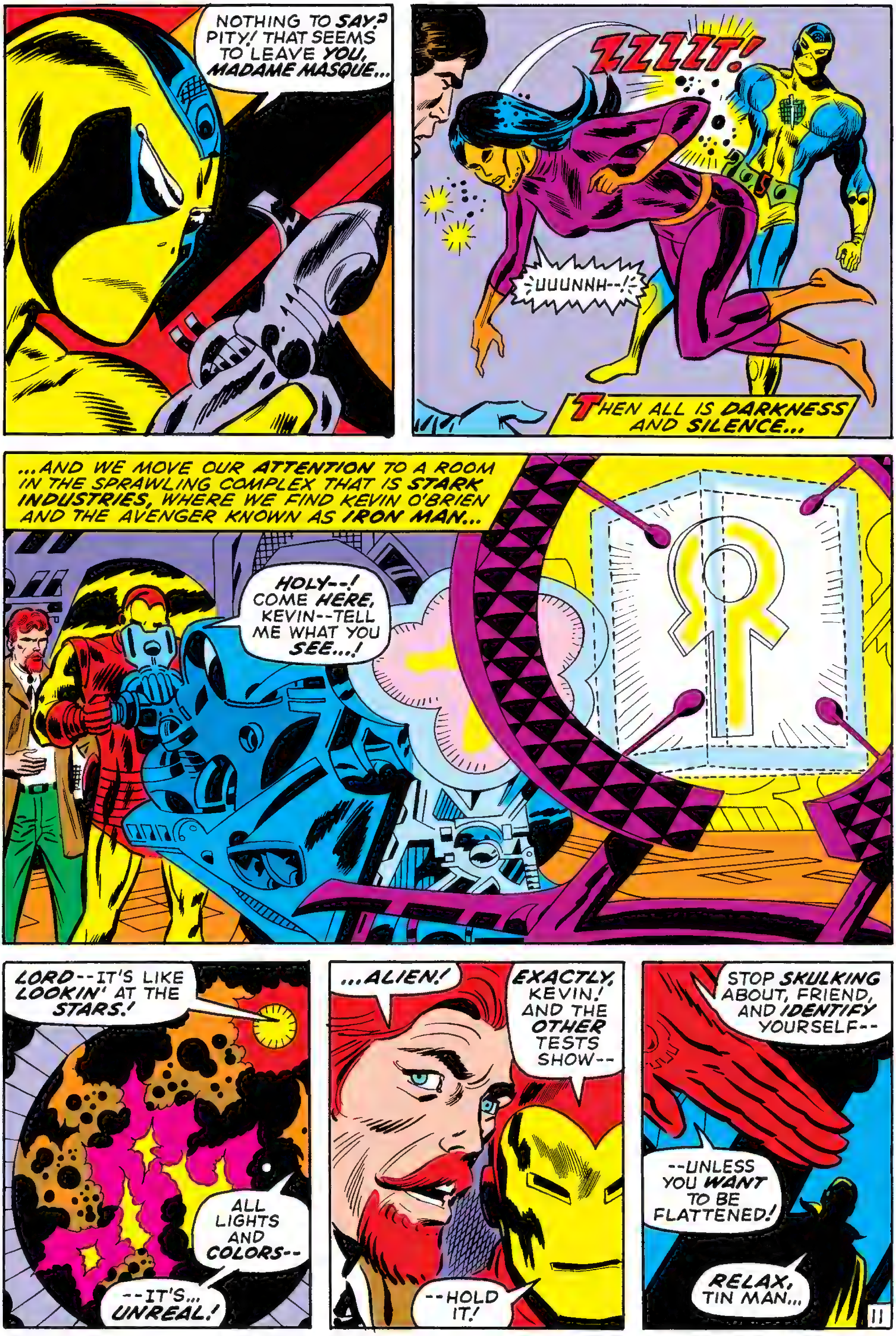

STOP IT, IRON MAN!
EASE THAT TEMPER OF YOURS--
LET GO OF MY ARM, MURDOCK--!*
*AND, LEST ANYONE WONDER WHAT MATT (DAREDEVIL) MURDOCK IS DOING AT A POLICE LINE-UP--WELL, HE'S ASSISTANT TO THE D.A., ISN'T HE? --STAN.
AND IF I DON'T...? YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL, IRON MAN--LETTING YOURSELF BE SWEPT ALONG BY ALL THAT HATE!
LOOSEN UP BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET!
I...
FORGET IT! JUST FORGET IT!
I'LL FIND HIM ON MY OWN!
WAS THAT WISE, MATT?
I KNOW MY PEOPLE, FOGGY--ONLY MY EYES ARE BLIND!
AND WHAT OF SPYMASTER? ONE MAN IN A CITY OF EIGHT MILLION... IF IRON MAN COULD BUT TWIST THE SHAPE OF TIME AND SPACE AS WE CAN, AND TRAVEL THROUGH THAT CITY TO A CERTAIN STREET SLICKED BY THE FALL OF AFTERNOON RAIN...
athryn's
...HE WOULD FIND HIS QUARRY PEERING THROUGH THE SHATTERED GLASS OF A SOOT-DARKENED WINDOW, STARING AT THE TWILIGHT WITHOUT...!
IT IS ALMOST TIME...!
I'VE ALWAYS PRIDED MYSELF ON PRECISION--AND FOR THIS OF ALL MEETINGS, I MUST BE EXACTLY ON TIME...

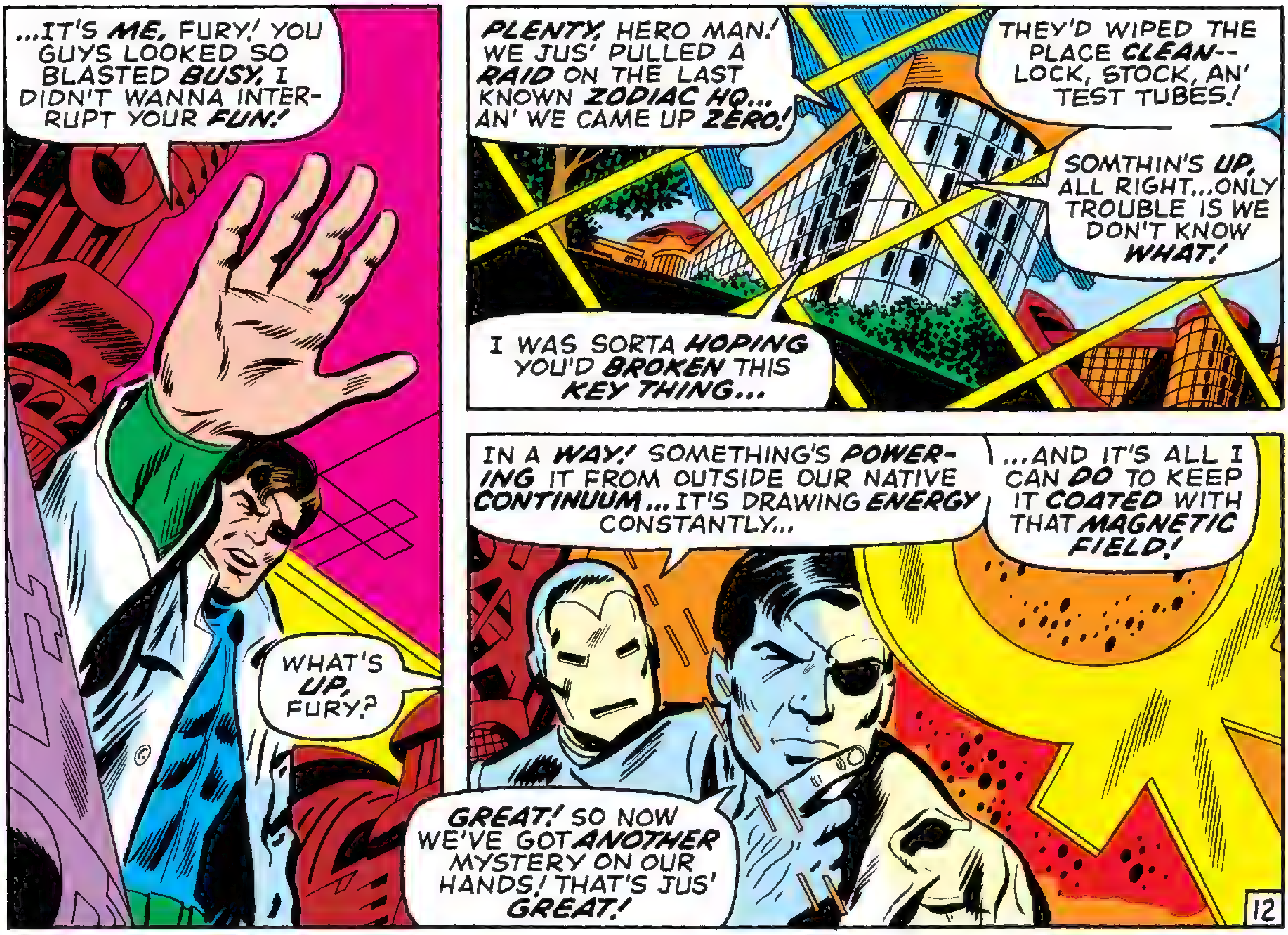

MOMENTS LATER, HE STRIDES THROUGH THE BLACKENED TUNNELS OF A DESERTED SUBWAY...
I MUST REMAIN CALM--EVER SURE! IF HE EXPECTS THE SCRAPING MANNER OF A SERVANT...THEN HE IS MISTAKEN!
THE SPYMASTER IS NO ONE'S SERVANT...NOT EVEN HIS!
I MUST BE SURE...BUT I MUST ALSO BE HUMBLE, FOR I HAVE, IN A WAY, FAILED...!
ENTER, YOU INCOMPETENT BUNGLER!
CAPRICORN, I--
SILENCE! YOU HAVE BETRAYED THE TRUST OF THE ZODIAC BY YOUR FAILURE...
...IN ALL OTHER CASES, THIS WOULD DEMAND DEATH--
BUT YOU ARE FORTUNATE, SPYMASTER, FOR NEW ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED...
...ORDERS WHICH NECESSITATE YOUR REINSTATEMENT!
MOST GRACIOUS ONE, I--
ENOUGH! THERE ARE MORE VITAL MATTERS TO ATTEND TO THAN YOUR APOLOGIES!
THERE! HE IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR NEW HUNT...THE MAN THEY CALL DAREDEVIL!
AND IN THIS--YOU MUST NOT FAIL!

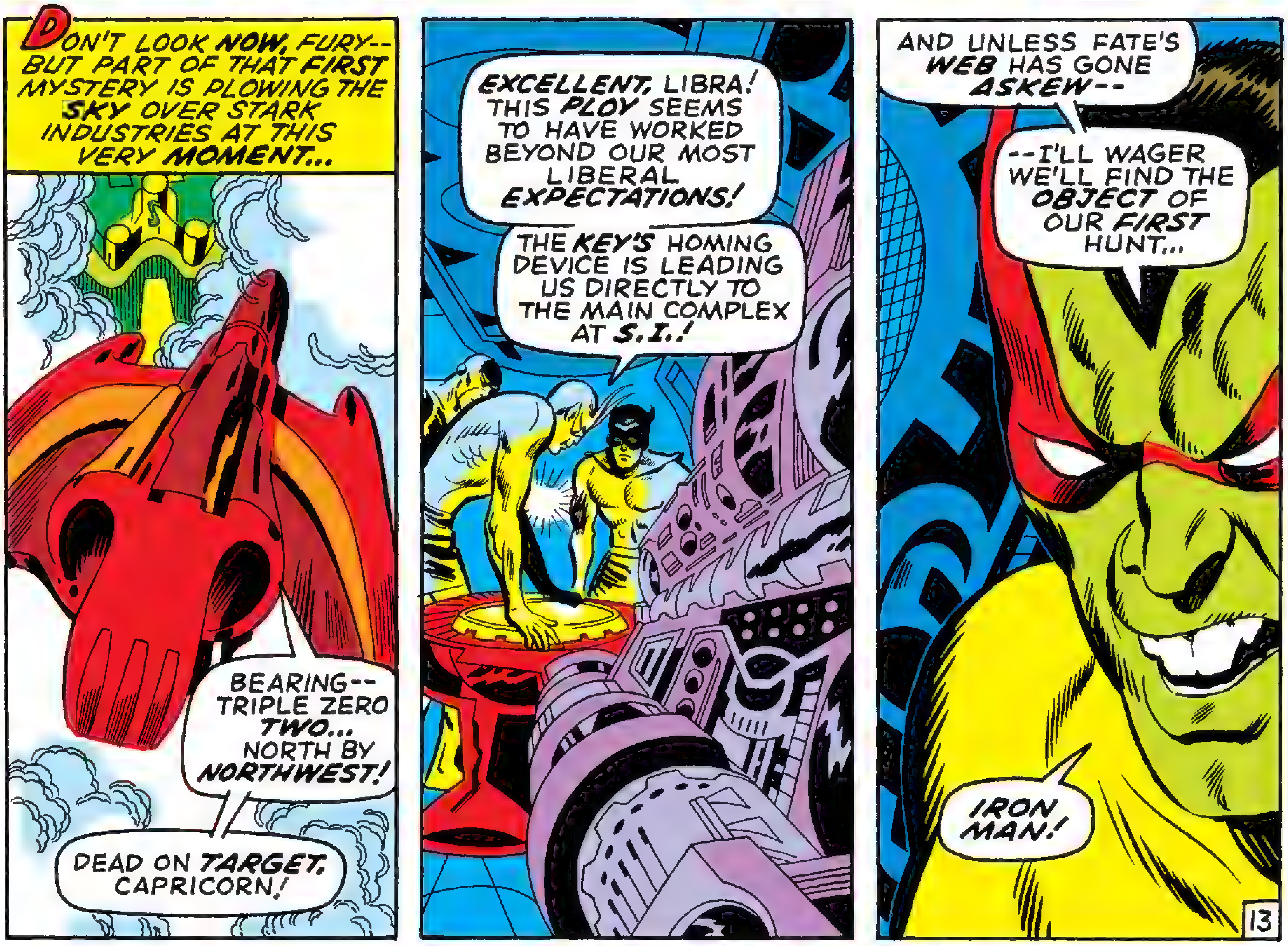

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THAT WONDERFUL DEVICE, THE DRAMATIC TRANSITION, WE'LL MOVE OURSELVES TO THE DUTY ROOM OF THAT INDUSTRIOUS ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS S.H.I.E.L.D., WHERE...
I APPRECIATE YOUR COMIN' AROUND TO CHECK UP ON SITWELL, IRON MAN--BUT YOU'VE GOTTA UNDERSTAND...
...THERE JUST AINT NOTHING YOU CAN DO!
LOOK, I KNOW HOW YOUR BOSS MUST FEEL...
IT AINT NO PICNIC SENDIN' MEN INTO DANGER--KNOWIN THEY MAY GET KILLED...
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW...
I HAD MY SHARE OF LOST BUDDIES BACK IN THE BIG ONE...BUT MY FEELINGS DON'T MEAN A THING...
...AND NEITHER DO STARK'S! IT'S GOTTA BE DONE--AND THAT'S IT!
BUT FORGET ALL'A THAT! THERE'S SOMETHIN' ELSE I WANT YOUR HELP FOR...
THIS! THE ZODIAC KEY WE CAPTURED*-OUR BRAIN BOYS JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT! MAYBE YOUR BOSS, STARK--
*SEE AVENGERS #72! --STAN.
...STARK...
FURY... WHAT--?
ZZZTTT!
FURY--WHAT'S WRONG? FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, MAN--!
I--I--CAN'T--
LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, NICK FURY SWINGS OUT WITH THE LASHING POWER OF THE KEY, STRIKING AND SMASHING UNCONTROLLABLY...

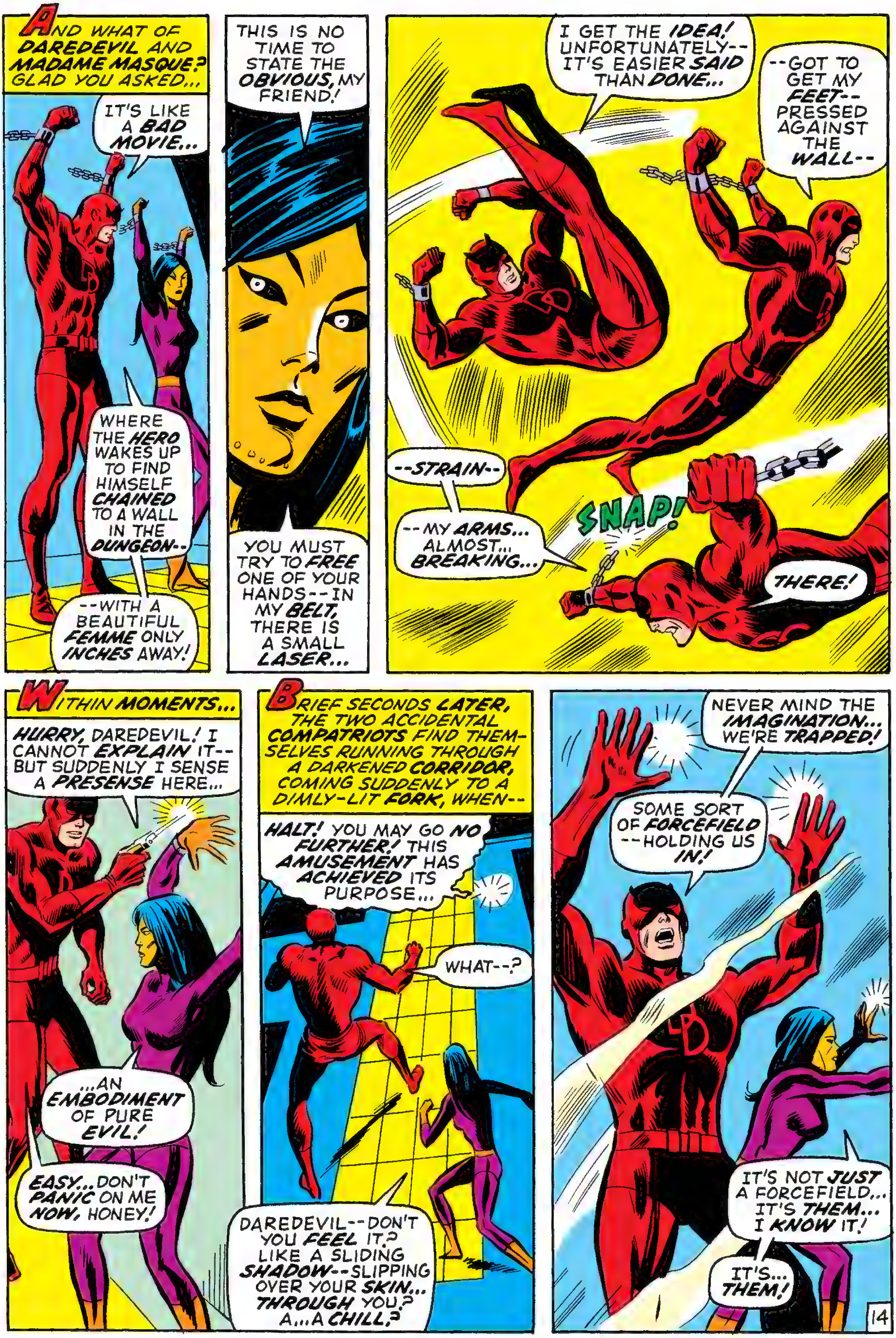

FURY'S GONE BERSERK! SOMEHOW--THAT KEY'S CONTROLLING HIS MIND!
I'VE GOT TO GET IT AWAY FROM HIM!
IRON MAN-- I--
SSSZZZT!
I'LL MAGNETIZE IT--COAT IT IN A REPULSOR FIELD...
KKRACKLE!
GOT IT-- FOR NOW!
FURY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH... YEAH, I GUESS SO...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT WORRIES, METAL MAN...
BIG WORRIES!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, NICK...!
AFTER THE ACCIDENT THAT CHANGED WHITNEY FROST INTO MADAME MASQUE...
...I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS OVER WITH JASPER --AND NOW I FIND IT IS NOT!
WHY CAN IT NOT BE SIMPLE...EASY? WHY MUST THERE ALWAYS BE PAIN?
BUT THAT'S A QUESTION DESTINED TO REMAIN UNANSWERED, FOR...
DAREDEVIL!
THAT PUTS YOU ONE UP, MISS--
--YOU KNOW ME! CAN'T SAY I CAN RETURN THE COMPLIMENT!
SO IT SHOULD REMAIN, MY FRIEND--I AM NOT ONE YOU'D CARE TO KNOW!
LET ME BE THE-- WAIT!
THAT SOUND--!

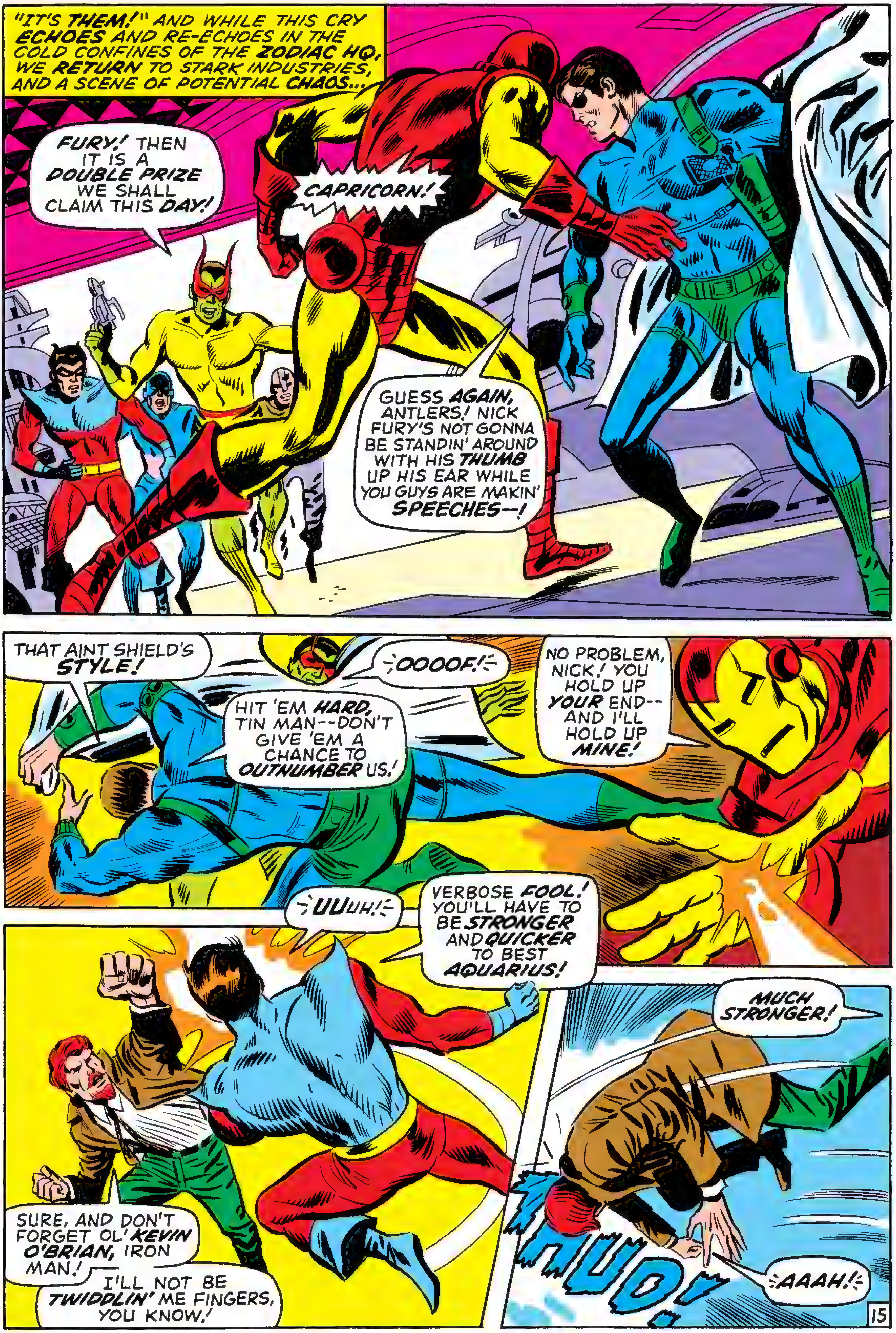

A NET!
DON'T MOVE--IF WE STRUGGLE, WE'LL ONLY GET MORE ENTANGLED--!
BUT WHO--?
SISTER, THAT WAS ONE QUESTION I WAS KINDA HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO ANSWER...
...CAUSE I'M COMPLETELY ...IN THE DARK!
FOR WHICH PUN YOU SHOULD TAKE FIVE GIANT STEPS BACKWARD, MATTHEW FRIEND...
UNLESS YOU GET A KICK OUT OF BEING BLIND!
ENOUGH BLEEDING SOUL, DD--LISTEN...
FOOL! KEEP THOSE WIRES TAUT!
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, FRIEND! A LITTLE LOOSER--
--AND I CAN DO THIS!
BE MY GUEST, SWEETIE!
I AM MUCH OBLIGED, DAREDEVIL!
THEY'RE FREE--AWWK!
VERY PERCEPTIVE, SIR! YOUR DEDUCTIVE POWERS ASTOUND ME!
THESE ARE HARDLY THE MOST EFFICIENT KIDNAPPERS I HAVE YET TO ENCOUNTER, DAREDEVIL--
DAREDEVIL?
THUMP!
REGRETTABLY, I AGREE WITH YOU, MY DEAR--
--BUT I'M AFRAID YOUR COSTUMED FRIEND IS IN NO POSITION TO ANSWER!
ONE MUST LEARN SELF-SUFFICIENCY! CORRECT, MY FRIEND?

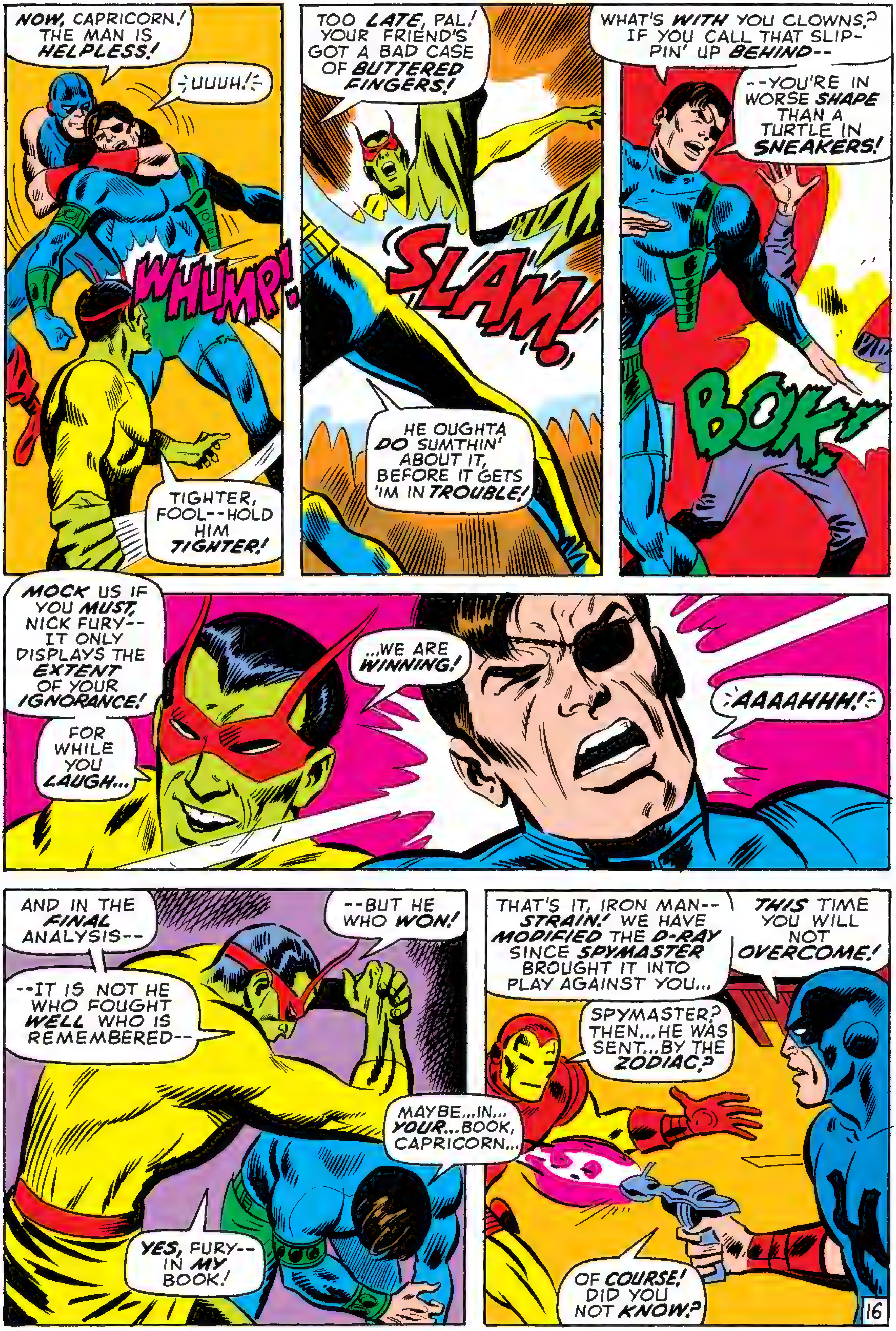

NOTHING TO SAY? PITY! THAT SEEMS TO LEAVE YOU, MADAME MASQUE...
ZZZZT!
UUUNNH--!
THEN ALL IS DARKNESS AND SILENCE...
...AND WE MOVE OUR ATTENTION TO A ROOM IN THE SPRAWLING COMPLEX THAT IS STARK INDUSTRIES, WHERE WE FIND KEVIN O'BRIEN AND THE AVENGER KNOWN AS IRON MAN...
HOLY--! COME HERE, KEVIN--TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE...!
LORD--IT'S LIKE LOOKIN' AT THE STARS!
ALL LIGHTS AND COLORS--
--IT'S... UNREAL!
...ALIEN!
EXACTLY, KEVIN! AND THE OTHER TESTS SHOW--
--HOLD IT!
STOP SKULKING ABOUT, FRIEND, AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF--
--UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE FLATTENED!
RELAX, TIN MAN...

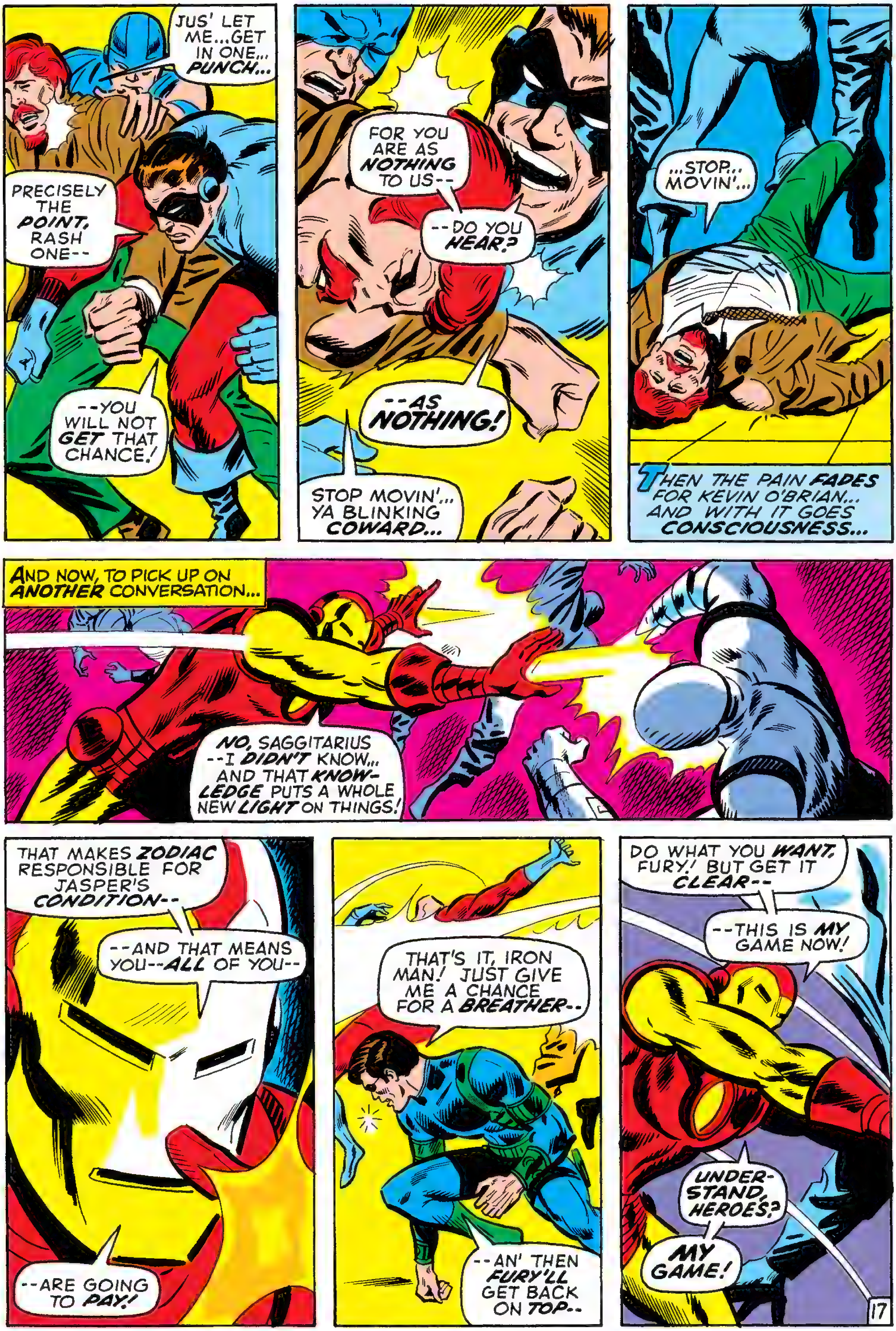

...IT'S ME, FURY! YOU GUYS LOOKED SO BLASTED BUSY, I DIDN'T WANNA INTERRUPT YOUR FUN!
WHAT'S UP, FURY?
PLENTY, HERO MAN! WE JUS' PULLED A RAID ON THE LAST KNOWN ZODIAC HQ... AN' WE CAME UP ZERO!
THEY'D WIPED THE PLACE CLEAN--LOCK, STOCK, AN' TEST TUBES!
SOMTHIN'S UP, ALL RIGHT...ONLY TROUBLE IS WE DON'T KNOW WHAT!
I WAS SORTA HOPING YOU'D BROKEN THIS KEY THING...
IN A WAY! SOMETHING'S POWERING IT FROM OUTSIDE OUR NATIVE CONTINUUM...IT'S DRAWING ENERGY CONSTANTLY...
...AND IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP IT COATED WITH THAT MAGNETIC FIELD!
GREAT! SO NOW WE'VE GOT ANOTHER MYSTERY ON OUR HANDS! THAT'S JUS' GREAT!
12

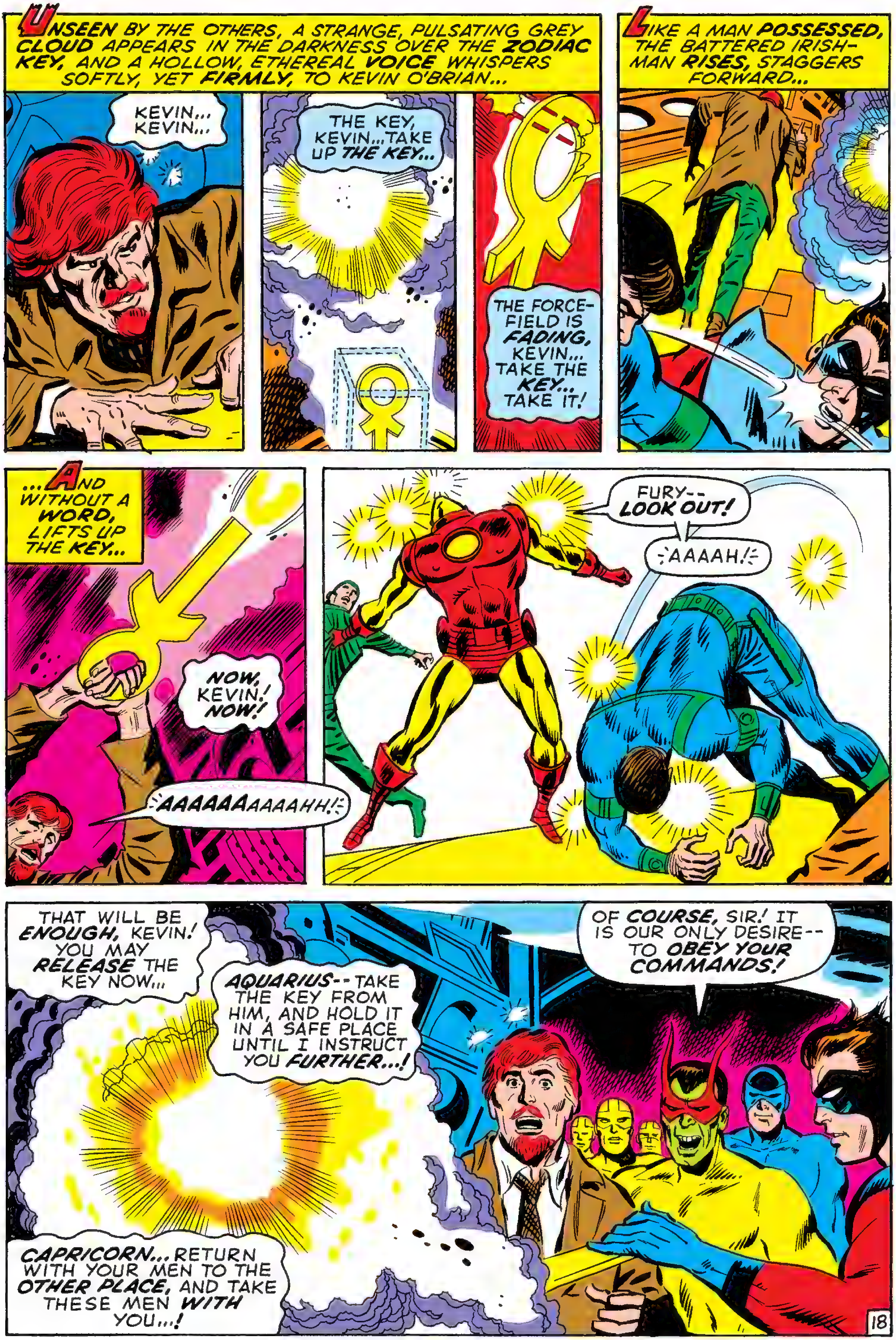

DON'T LOOK NOW, FURY--BUT PART OF THAT FIRST MYSTERY IS PLOWING THE SKY OVER STARK INDUSTRIES AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
BEARING--TRIPLE ZERO TWO... NORTH BY NORTHWEST!
DEAD ON TARGET, CAPRICORN!
EXCELLENT, LIBRA! THIS PLOY SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED BEYOND OUR MOST LIBERAL EXPECTATIONS!
THE KEY'S HOMING DEVICE IS LEADING US DIRECTLY TO THE MAIN COMPLEX AT S.I.!
AND UNLESS FATE'S WEB HAS GONE ASKEW--
--I'LL WAGER WE'LL FIND THE OBJECT OF OUR FIRST HUNT...
IRON MAN!
13

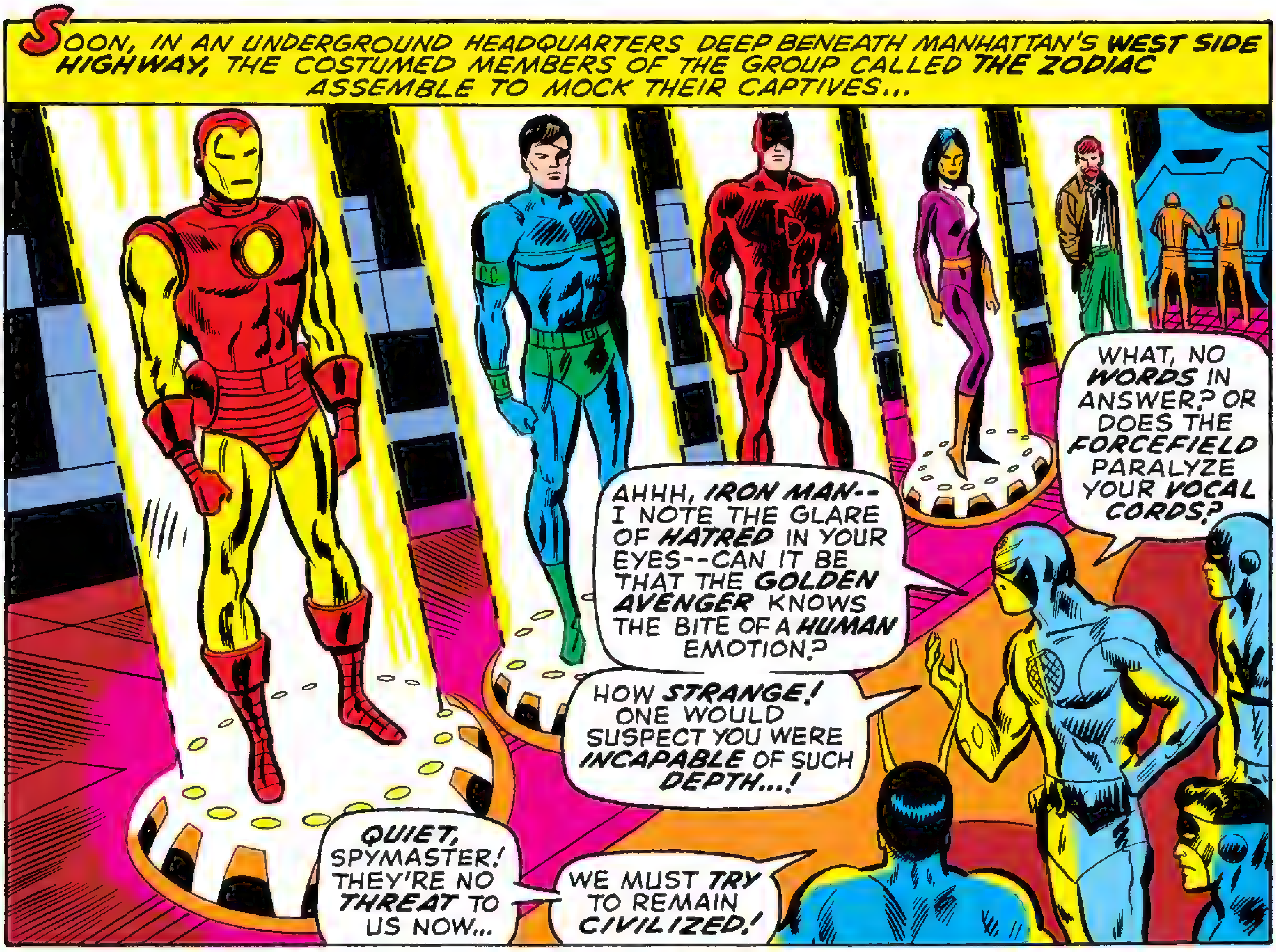

AND WHAT OF DAREDEVIL AND MADAME MASQUE? GLAD YOU ASKED...
IT'S LIKE A BAD MOVIE...
WHERE THE HERO WAKES UP TO FIND HIMSELF CHAINED TO A WALL IN THE DUNGEON--
--WITH A BEAUTIFUL FEMME ONLY INCHES AWAY!
THIS IS NO TIME TO STATE THE OBVIOUS, MY FRIEND!
YOU MUST TRY TO FREE ONE OF YOUR HANDS--IN MY BELT, THERE IS A SMALL LASER...
I GET THE IDEA! UNFORTUNATELY-- IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE...
--GOT TO GET MY FEET-- PRESSED AGAINST THE WALL--
--STRAIN--
--MY ARMS... ALMOST... BREAKING...
SNAP!
THERE!
WITHIN MOMENTS...
HURRY, DAREDEVIL! I CANNOT EXPLAIN IT-- BUT SUDDENLY I SENSE A PRESENSE HERE...
...AN EMBODIMENT OF PURE EVIL!
EASY...DON'T PANIC ON ME NOW, HONEY!
BRIEF SECONDS LATER, THE TWO ACCIDENTAL COMPATRIOTS FIND THEMSELVES RUNNING THROUGH A DARKENED CORRIDOR, COMING SUDDENLY TO A DIMLY-LIT FORK, WHEN--
HALT! YOU MAY GO NO FURTHER! THIS AMUSEMENT HAS ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE...
WHAT--?
DAREDEVIL--DON'T YOU FEEL IT? LIKE A SLIDING SHADOW--SLIPPING OVER YOUR SKIN... THROUGH YOU? A...A CHILL?
NEVER MIND THE IMAGINATION... WE'RE TRAPPED!
SOME SORT OF FORCEFIELD --HOLDING US IN!
IT'S NOT JUST A FORCEFIELD... IT'S THEM... I KNOW IT!
IT'S... THEM!

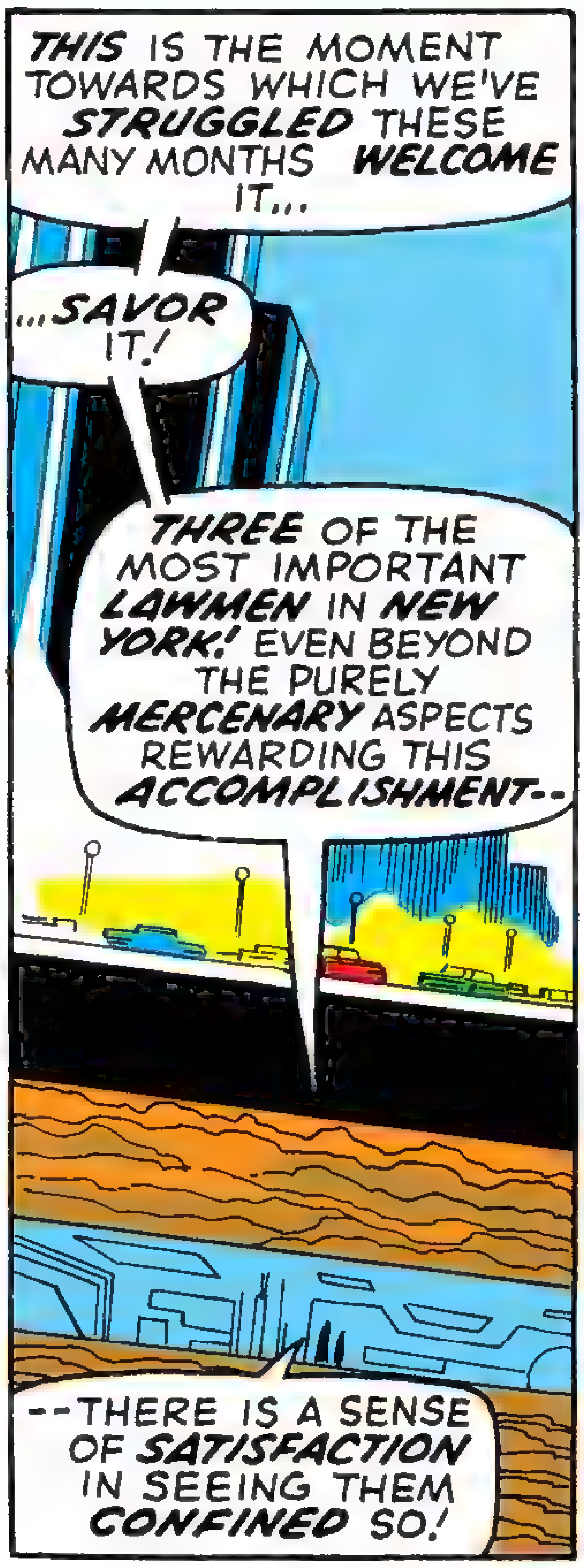

"IT'S THEM!" AND WHILE THIS CRY ECHOES AND RE-ECHOES IN THE COLD CONFINES OF THE ZODIAC HQ, WE RETURN TO STARK INDUSTRIES, AND A SCENE OF POTENTIAL CHAOS...
FURY! THEN IT IS A DOUBLE PRIZE WE SHALL CLAIM THIS DAY!
CAPRICORN!
GUESS AGAIN, ANTLERS! NICK FURY'S NOT GONNA BE STANDIN' AROUND WITH HIS THUMB UP HIS EAR WHILE YOU GUYS ARE MAKIN' SPEECHES--!
THAT AINT SHIELD'S STYLE!
OOOOF!
HIT 'EM HARD, TIN MAN--DON'T GIVE 'EM A CHANCE TO OUTNUMBER US!
NO PROBLEM, NICK! YOU HOLD UP YOUR END-- AND I'LL HOLD UP MINE!
UUUH!
VERBOSE FOOL! YOU'LL HAVE TO BE STRONGER AND QUICKER TO BEST AQUARIUS!
SURE, AND DON'T FORGET OL' KEVIN O'BRIAN, IRON MAN!
I'LL NOT BE TWIDDLIN' ME FINGERS, YOU KNOW!
MUCH STRONGER!
THUD!
AAAH!

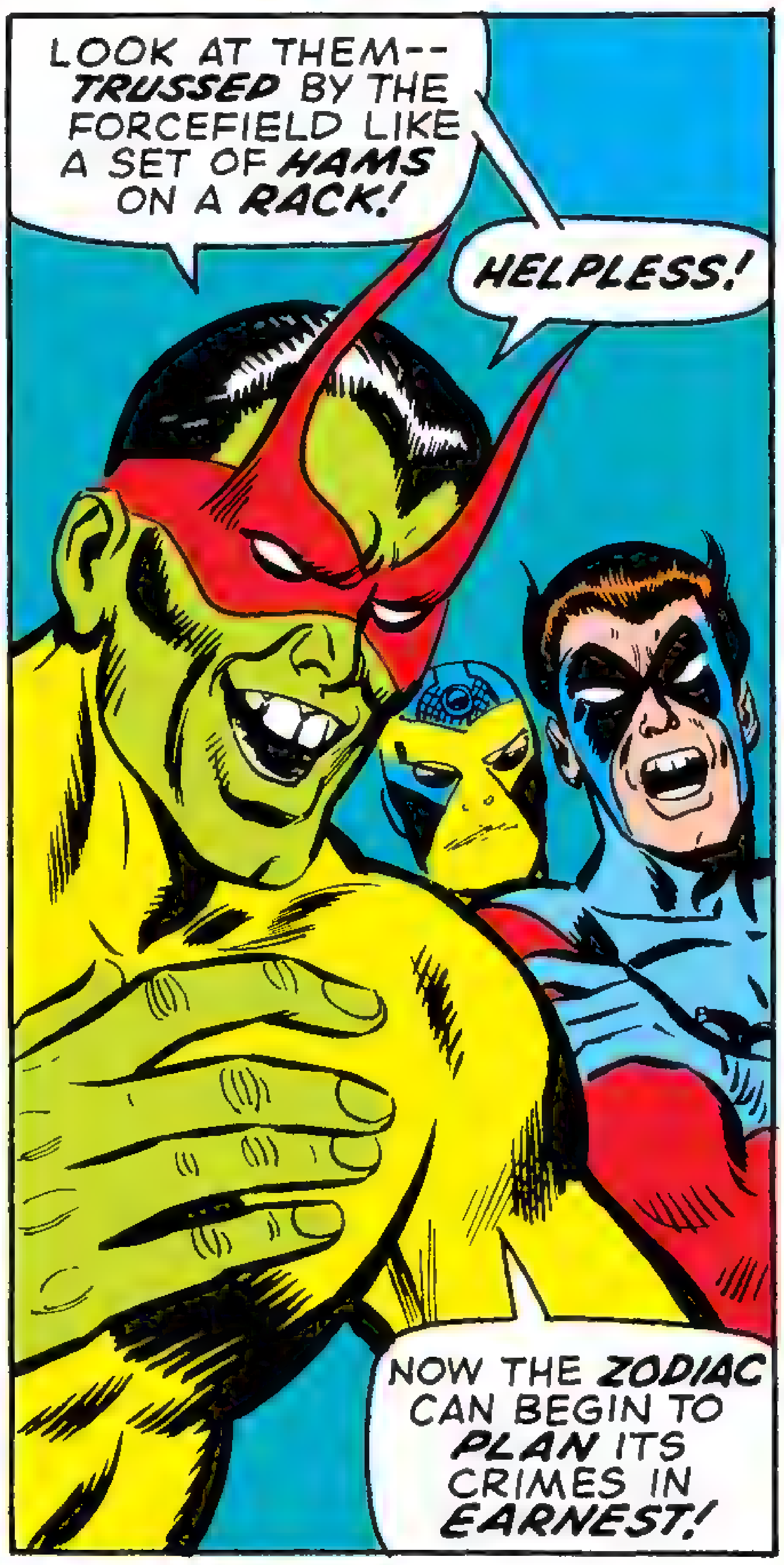

NOW, CAPRICORN! THE MAN IS HELPLESS!
UUUH!
WHUMP!
TIGHTER, FOOL--HOLD HIM TIGHTER!
TOO LATE, PAL! YOUR FRIEND'S GOT A BAD CASE OF BUTTERED FINGERS!
SLAM!
HE OUGHTA DO SUMTHIN' ABOUT IT, BEFORE IT GETS 'IM IN TROUBLE!
WHAT'S WITH YOU CLOWNS? IF YOU CALL THAT SLIPPIN' UP BEHIND--
--YOU'RE IN WORSE SHAPE THAN A TURTLE IN SNEAKERS!
BOK!
MOCK US IF YOU MUST, NICK FURY-- IT ONLY DISPLAYS THE EXTENT OF YOUR IGNORANCE!
FOR WHILE YOU LAUGH...
...WE ARE WINNING!
AAAAHHH!
AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS--
--IT IS NOT HE WHO FOUGHT WELL WHO IS REMEMBERED--
--BUT HE WHO WON!
MAYBE...IN... YOUR...BOOK, CAPRICORN...
YES, FURY-- IN MY BOOK!
THAT'S IT, IRON MAN-- STRAIN! WE HAVE MODIFIED THE D-RAY SINCE SPYMASTER BROUGHT IT INTO PLAY AGAINST YOU...
THIS TIME YOU WILL NOT OVERCOME!
SPYMASTER? THEN...HE WAS SENT...BY THE ZODIAC?
OF COURSE! DID YOU NOT KNOW?

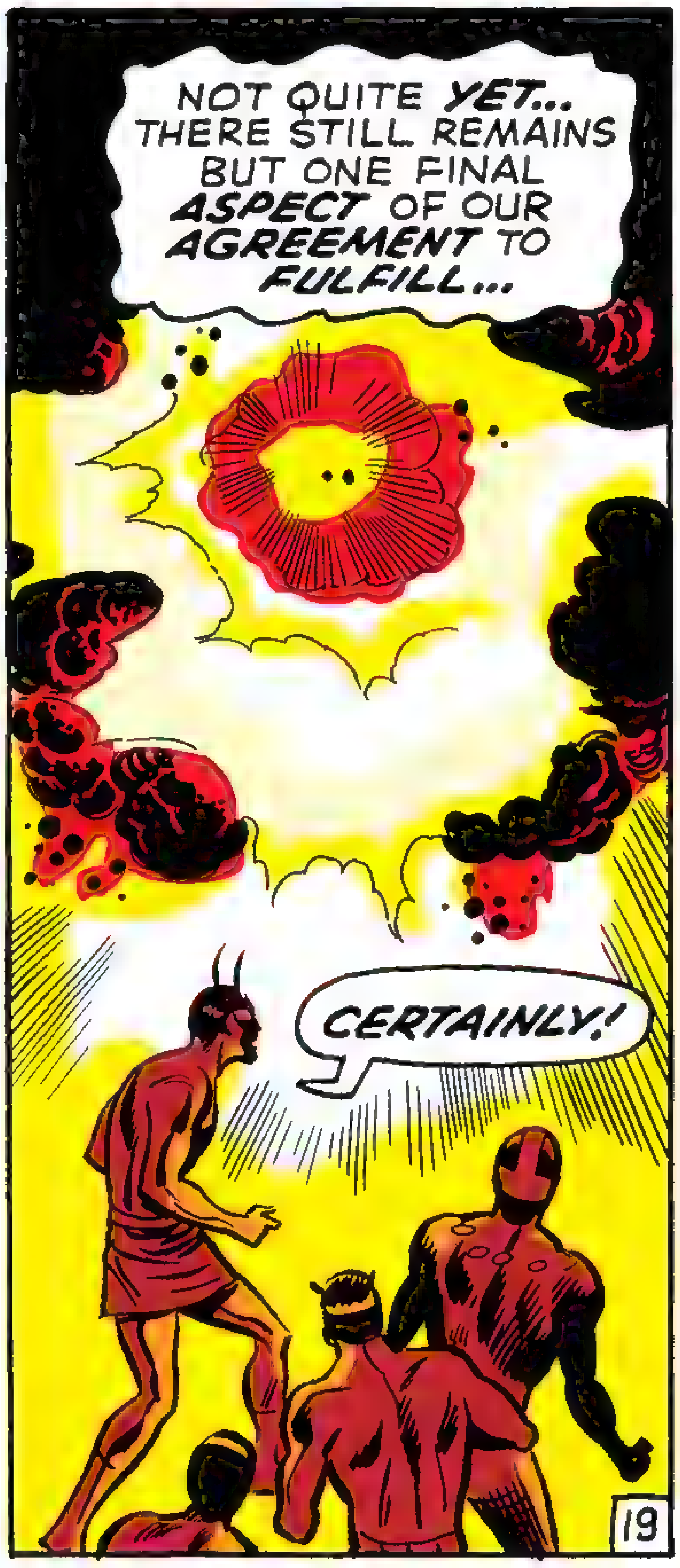

JUS' LET ME...GET IN ONE... PUNCH...
PRECISELY THE POINT, RASH ONE--
--YOU WILL NOT GET THAT CHANCE!
FOR YOU ARE AS NOTHING TO US--
--DO YOU HEAR?
--AS NOTHING!
STOP MOVIN'... YA BLINKING COWARD...
...STOP... MOVIN'...
THEN THE PAIN FADES FOR KEVIN O'BRIAN... AND WITH IT GOES CONSCIOUSNESS...
AND NOW, TO PICK UP ON ANOTHER CONVERSATION...
NO, SAGGITARIUS --I DIDN'T KNOW... AND THAT KNOWLEDGE PUTS A WHOLE NEW LIGHT ON THINGS!
THAT MAKES ZODIAC RESPONSIBLE FOR JASPER'S CONDITION--
--AND THAT MEANS YOU--ALL OF YOU--
--ARE GOING TO PAY!
THAT'S IT, IRON MAN! JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE FOR A BREATHER--
--AN' THEN FURY'LL GET BACK ON TOP--
DO WHAT YOU WANT, FURY! BUT GET IT CLEAR--
--THIS IS MY GAME NOW!
UNDERSTAND, HEROES?
MY GAME!

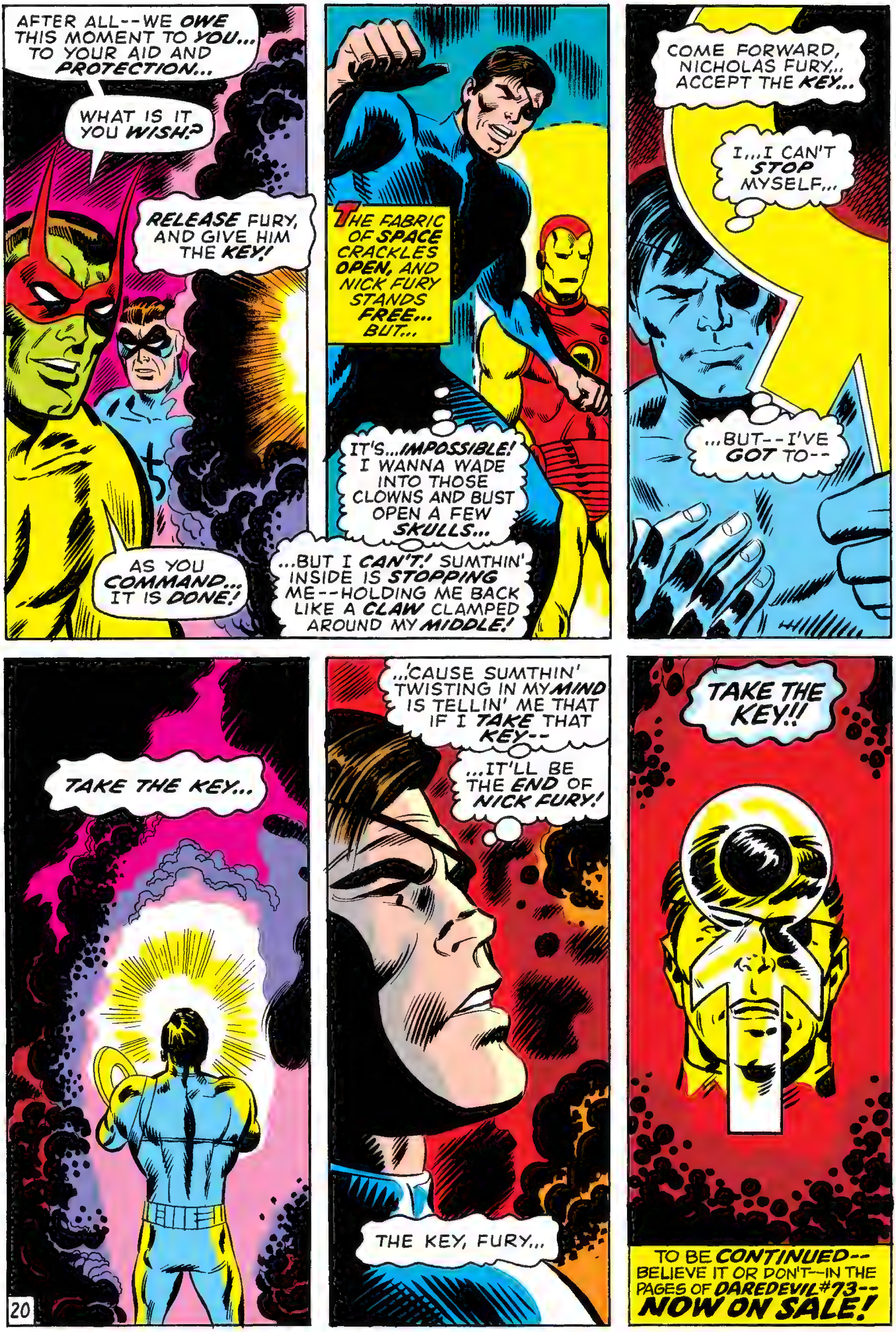

UNSEEN BY THE OTHERS, A STRANGE, PULSATING GREY CLOUD APPEARS IN THE DARKNESS OVER THE ZODIAC KEY, AND A HOLLOW, ETHEREAL VOICE WHISPERS SOFTLY, YET FIRMLY, TO KEVIN O'BRIAN...
KEVIN... KEVIN...
THE KEY, KEVIN...TAKE UP THE KEY...
THE FORCE-FIELD IS FADING, KEVIN... TAKE THE KEY... TAKE IT!
LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, THE BATTERED IRISHMAN RISES, STAGGERS FORWARD...
...AND WITHOUT A WORD, LIFTS UP THE KEY...
NOW, KEVIN! NOW!
AAAAAAAAAAHH!
FURY-- LOOK OUT!
AAAAH!
THAT WILL BE ENOUGH, KEVIN! YOU MAY RELEASE THE KEY NOW...
AQUARIUS-- TAKE THE KEY FROM HIM, AND HOLD IT IN A SAFE PLACE UNTIL I INSTRUCT YOU FURTHER...!
OF COURSE, SIR! IT IS OUR ONLY DESIRE-- TO OBEY YOUR COMMANDS!
CAPRICORN... RETURN WITH YOUR MEN TO THE OTHER PLACE, AND TAKE THESE MEN WITH YOU...!


SOON, IN AN UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS DEEP BENEATH MANHATTAN'S **WEST SIDE HIGHWAY**, THE COSTUMED MEMBERS OF THE GROUP CALLED **THE ZODIAC** ASSEMBLE TO MOCK THEIR CAPTIVES...
WHAT, NO **WORDS** IN ANSWER? OR DOES THE **FORCEFIELD** PARALYZE YOUR **VOCAL CORDS?**
AHHH, **IRON MAN--** I NOTE THE GLARE OF **HATRED** IN YOUR EYES--CAN IT BE THAT THE **GOLDEN AVENGER** KNOWS THE BITE OF A **HUMAN** EMOTION?
HOW **STRANGE!** ONE WOULD SUSPECT YOU WERE **INCAPABLE** OF SUCH **DEPTH...!**
QUIET, SPYMASTER! THEY'RE NO **THREAT** TO US NOW...
WE MUST **TRY** TO REMAIN **CIVILIZED!**


THIS IS THE MOMENT TOWARDS WHICH WE'VE **STRUGGLED** THESE MANY MONTHS. **WELCOME** IT...
...**SAVOR** IT!
THREE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT **LAWMEN** IN **NEW YORK!** EVEN BEYOND THE PURELY **MERCENARY** ASPECTS REWARDING THIS **ACCOMPLISHMENT--**
--THERE IS A SENSE OF **SATISFACTION** IN SEEING THEM **CONFINED** SO!

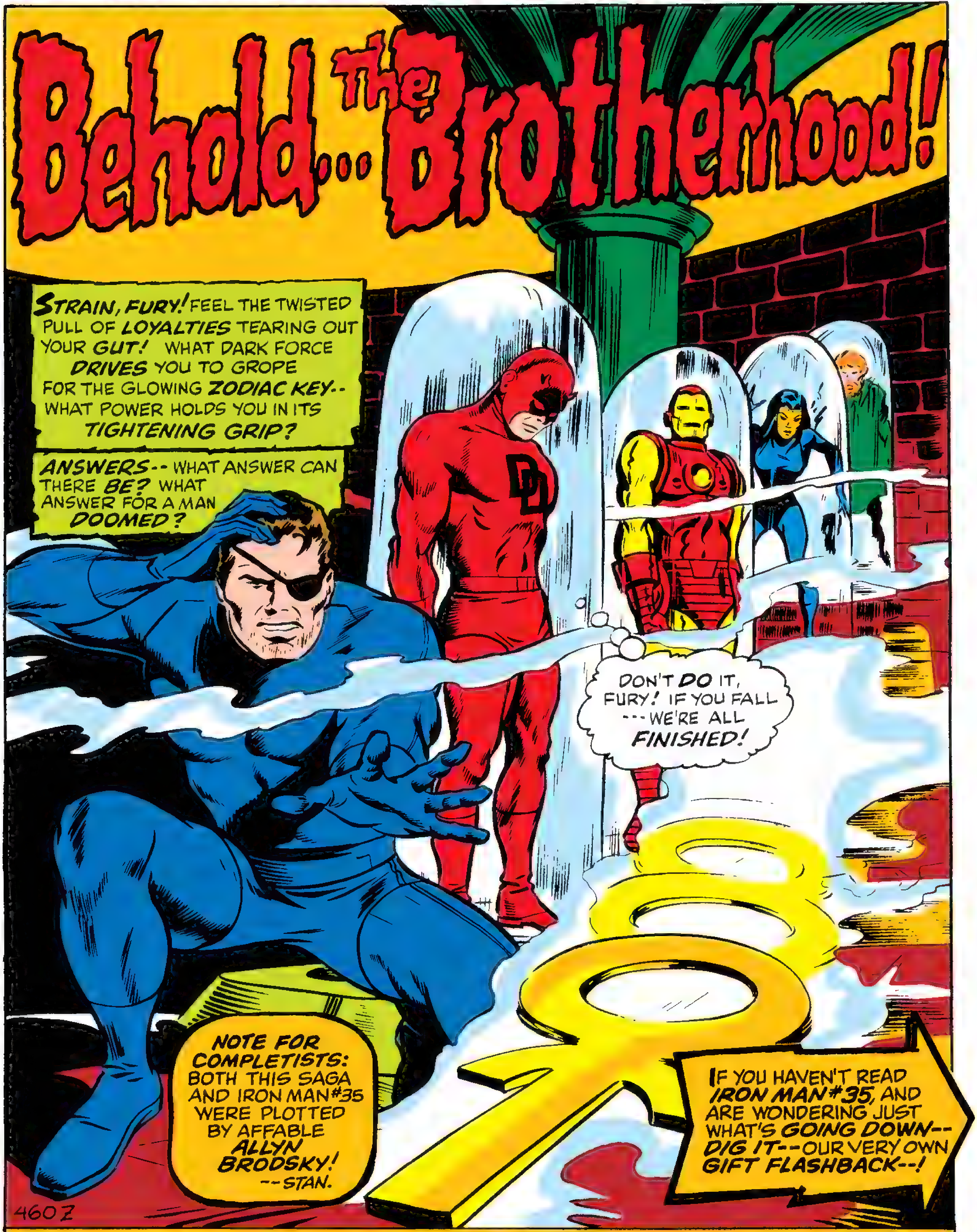

LOOK AT THEM-- **TRUSSED** BY THE FORCEFIELD LIKE A SET OF **HAMS** ON A **RACK!**
HELPLESS!
NOW THE **ZODIAC** CAN BEGIN TO **PLAN** ITS CRIMES IN **EARNEST!**


NOT QUITE **YET...** THERE STILL REMAINS BUT ONE FINAL **ASPECT** OF OUR **AGREEMENT** TO **FULFILL...**
CERTAINLY!

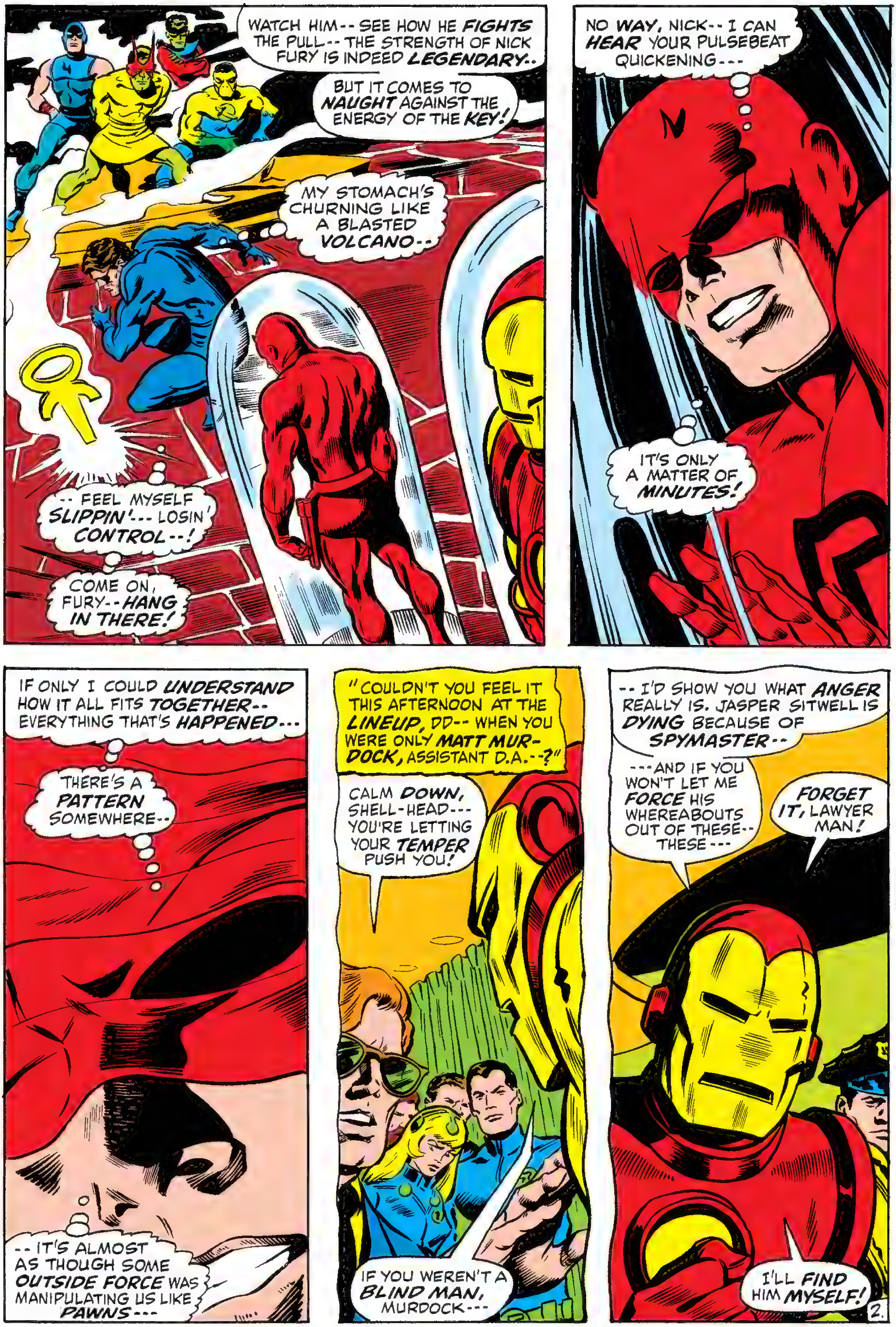

AFTER ALL--WE *OWE* THIS MOMENT TO *YOU...* TO YOUR AID AND *PROTECTION...*
WHAT IS IT YOU *WISH?*
RELEASE FURY, AND GIVE HIM THE *KEY!*
AS YOU *COMMAND...* IT IS *DONE!*
THE FABRIC OF *SPACE* CRACKLES *OPEN,* AND NICK FURY STANDS *FREE...* BUT...
IT'S...*IMPOSSIBLE!* I WANNA WADE INTO THOSE CLOWNS AND BUST OPEN A FEW *SKULLS...*
...BUT I *CAN'T!* SUMTHIN' INSIDE IS *STOPPING* ME--HOLDING ME BACK LIKE A *CLAW* CLAMPED AROUND MY *MIDDLE!*
COME FORWARD, NICHOLAS FURY... ACCEPT THE *KEY...*
I...I CAN'T *STOP* MYSELF...
...BUT--I'VE *GOT* TO--
TAKE THE KEY...
...'CAUSE SUMTHIN' TWISTING IN MY *MIND* IS TELLIN' ME THAT IF I *TAKE* THAT *KEY--*
...IT'LL BE THE *END* OF *NICK FURY!*
THE KEY, FURY...
TAKE THE KEY!!
TO BE *CONTINUED--* BELIEVE IT OR DON'T--IN THE PAGES OF *DAREDEVIL #73--* *NOW ON SALE!*

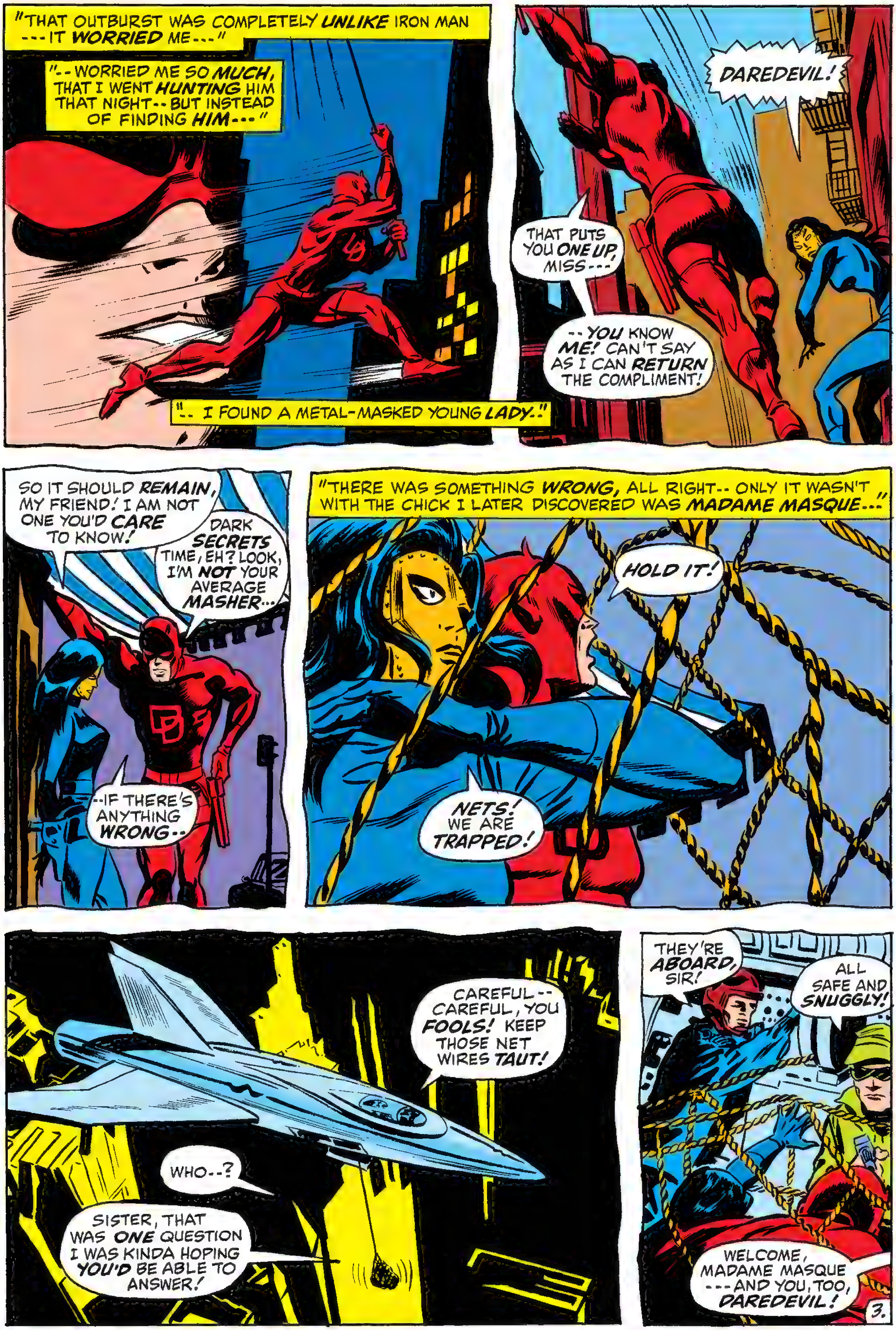
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
CC
73
FEB
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE CA AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN THOUT FEAR!
TM
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
IRON MAN CAN'T HELP YOU, DD--AND NEITHER CAN NICK FURY!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE-- NOW!
REVEALED AT LAST!! THE SINISTER SECRET OF ZODIAC!

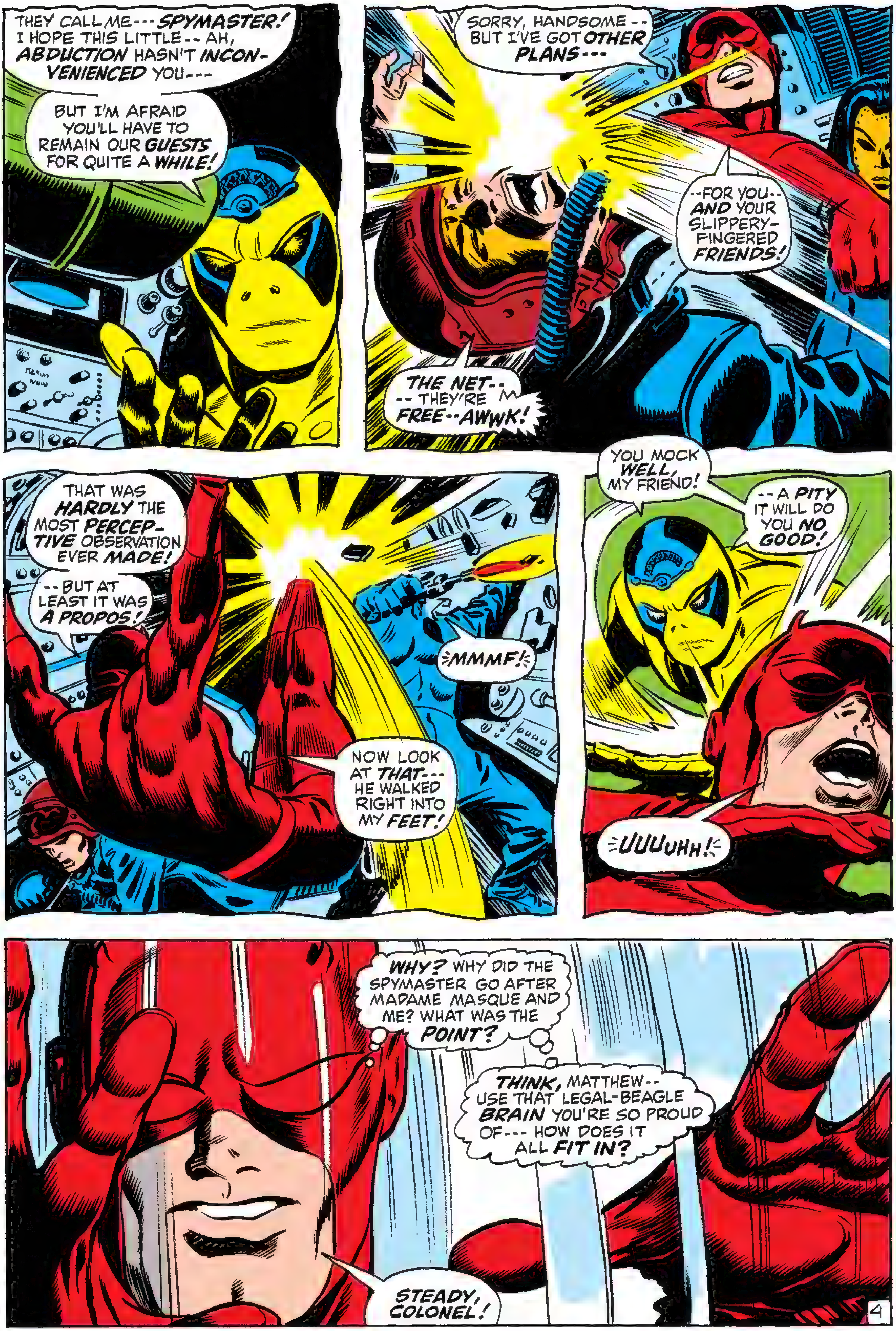
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

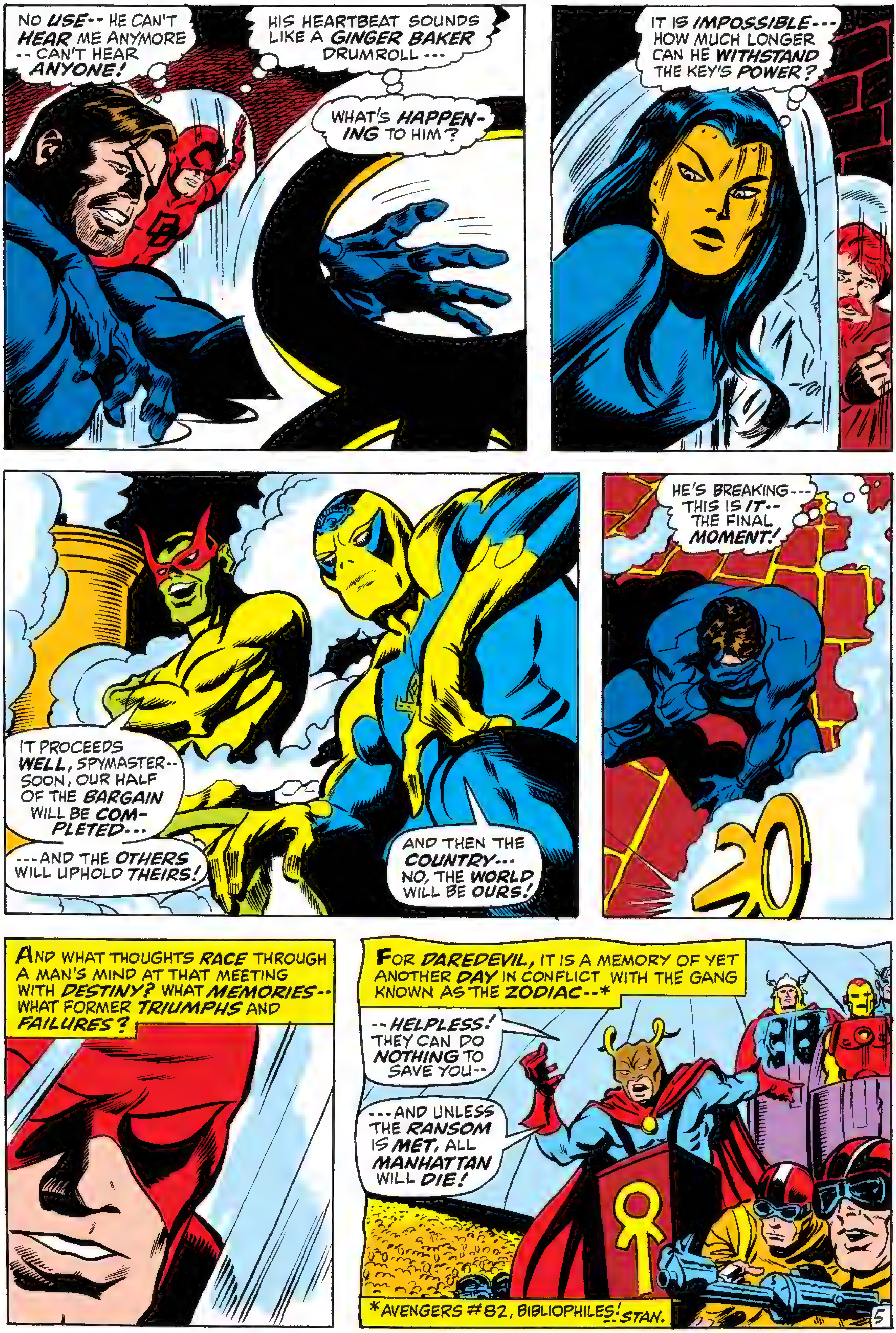

Behold... The Brotherhood!
STRAIN, FURY! FEEL THE TWISTED PULL OF LOYALTIES TEARING OUT YOUR GUT! WHAT DARK FORCE DRIVES YOU TO GROPE FOR THE GLOWING ZODIAC KEY-- WHAT POWER HOLDS YOU IN ITS TIGHTENING GRIP?
ANSWERS-- WHAT ANSWER CAN THERE BE? WHAT ANSWER FOR A MAN DOOMED?
DON'T DO IT, FURY! IF YOU FALL --- WE'RE ALL FINISHED!
NOTE FOR COMPLETISTS: BOTH THIS SAGA AND IRON MAN #35 WERE PLOTTED BY AFFABLE ALLYN BRODSKY! --STAN.
IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IRON MAN #35, AND ARE WONDERING JUST WHAT'S GOING DOWN-- DIG IT--OUR VERY OWN GIFT FLASHBACK--!
460 Z

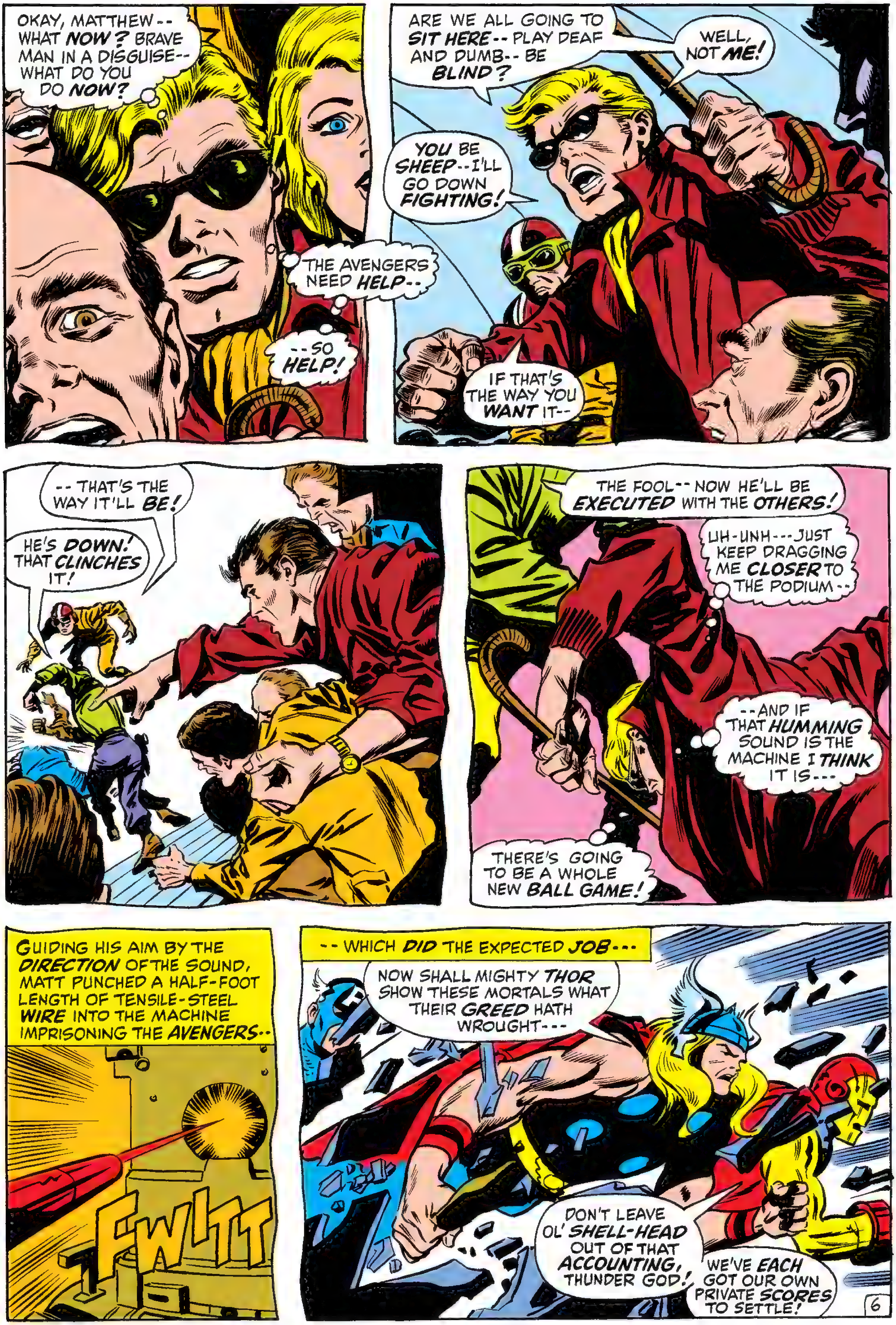
STAN LEE EDITOR • GERRY CONWAY WRITER • GENE COLAN ARTIST • SYD SHORES EMBELLISHER • SAM ROSEN LETTERER

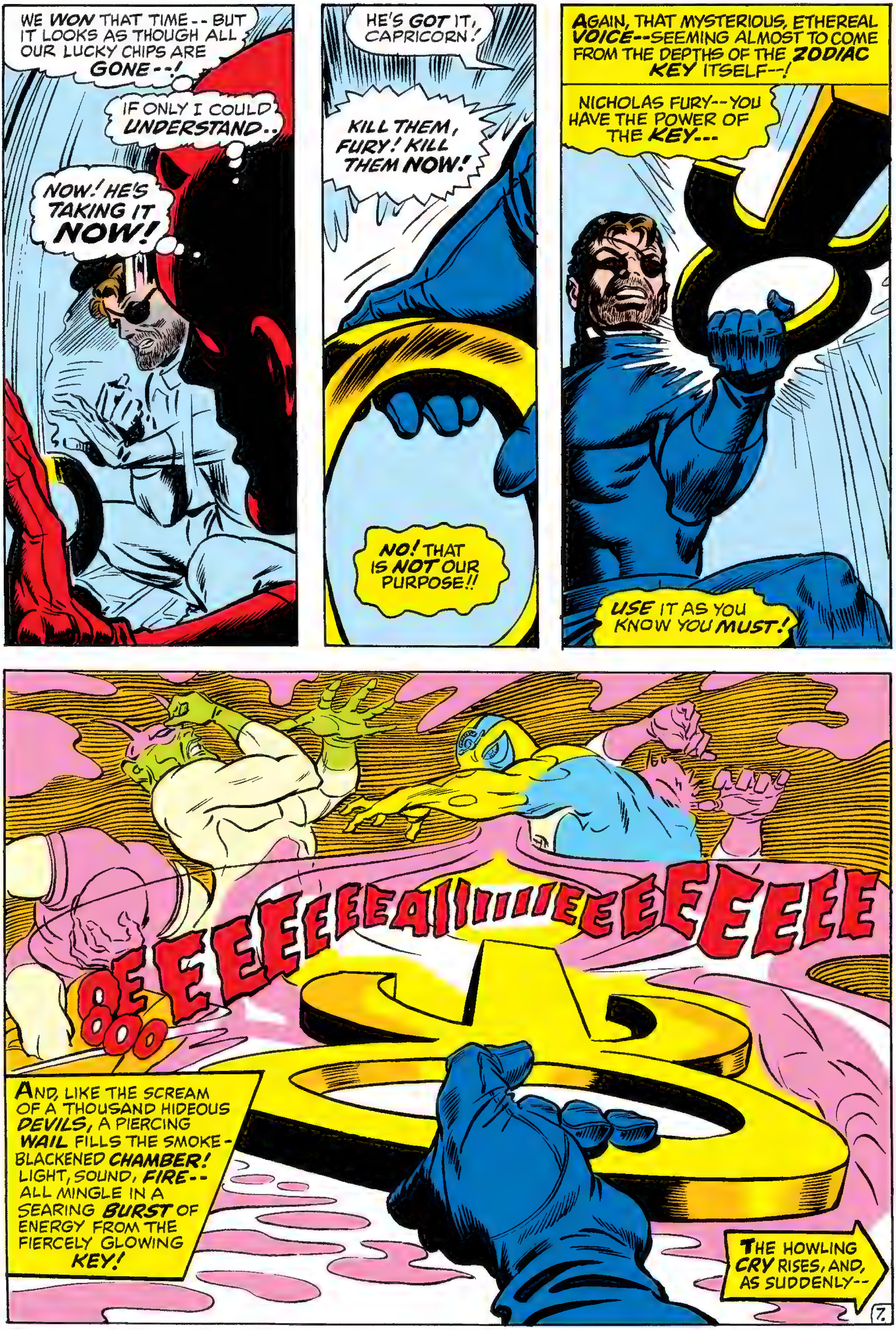

WATCH HIM-- SEE HOW HE *FIGHTS* THE PULL-- THE STRENGTH OF NICK FURY IS INDEED *LEGENDARY*..
BUT IT COMES TO *NAUGHT* AGAINST THE ENERGY OF THE *KEY!*
MY STOMACH'S CHURNING LIKE A BLASTED *VOLCANO*..
-- FEEL MYSELF *SLIPPIN'*--- LOSIN' *CONTROL*--!
COME ON, FURY-- *HANG IN THERE!*
NO *WAY*, NICK-- I CAN *HEAR* YOUR PULSEBEAT QUICKENING---
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF *MINUTES!*
IF ONLY I COULD *UNDERSTAND* HOW IT ALL FITS *TOGETHER*-- EVERYTHING THAT'S *HAPPENED*---
THERE'S A *PATTERN* SOMEWHERE--
-- IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH SOME *OUTSIDE FORCE* WAS MANIPULATING US LIKE *PAWNS*---
"COULDN'T YOU FEEL IT THIS AFTERNOON AT THE *LINEUP*, DD-- WHEN YOU WERE ONLY *MATT MURDOCK*, ASSISTANT D.A.--?"
CALM *DOWN*, SHELL-HEAD--- YOU'RE LETTING YOUR *TEMPER* PUSH YOU!
IF YOU WEREN'T A *BLIND MAN*, MURDOCK---
-- I'D SHOW YOU WHAT *ANGER* REALLY IS. JASPER SITWELL IS *DYING* BECAUSE OF *SPYMASTER*--
---AND IF YOU WON'T LET ME *FORCE* HIS WHEREABOUTS OUT OF THESE-- THESE---
FORGET IT, LAWYER MAN!
I'LL *FIND* HIM *MYSELF!*

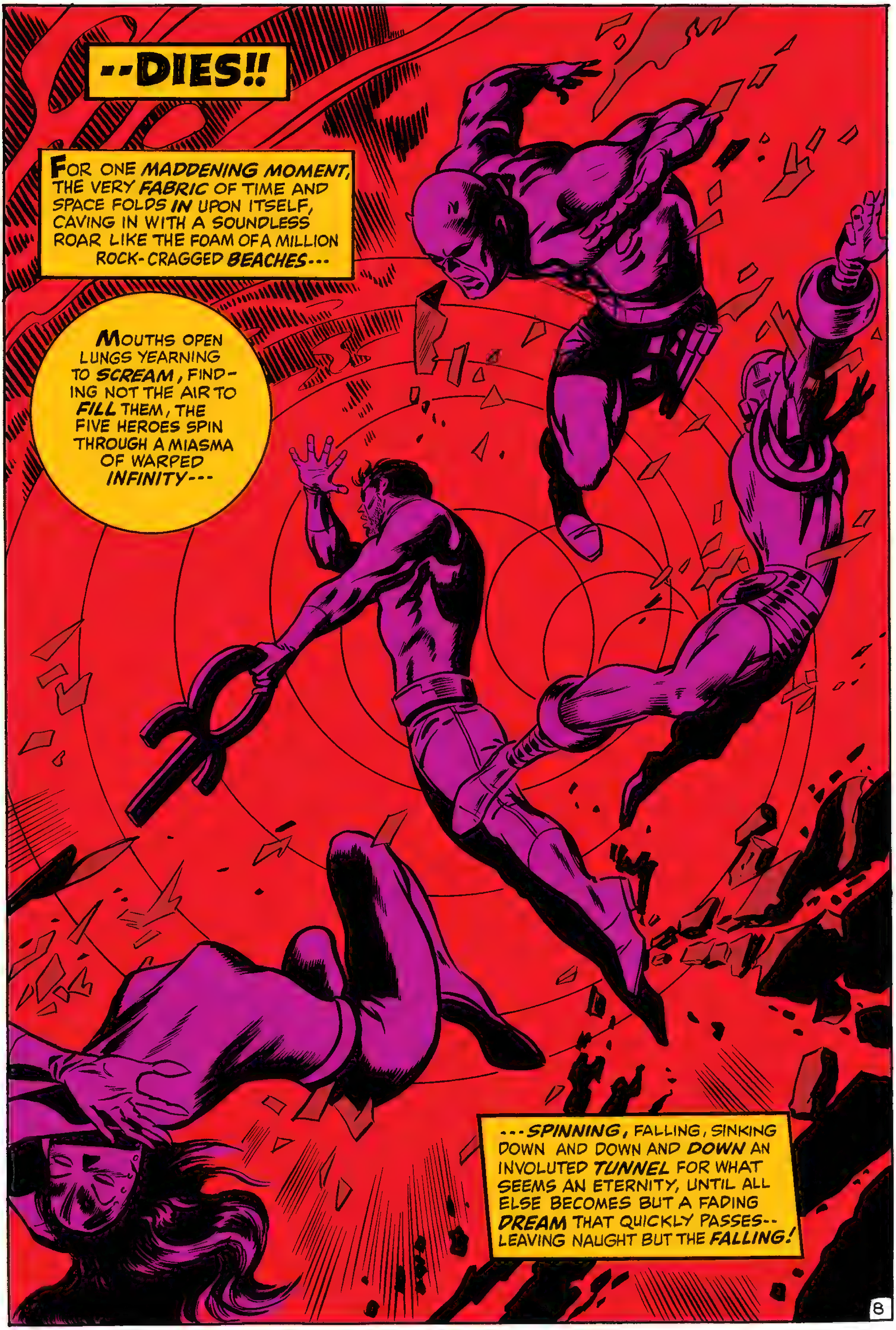

"THAT OUTBURST WAS COMPLETELY UNLIKE IRON MAN ---IT WORRIED ME---"
"--WORRIED ME SO MUCH, THAT I WENT HUNTING HIM THAT NIGHT--BUT INSTEAD OF FINDING HIM---"
"-- I FOUND A METAL-MASKED YOUNG LADY-."
DAREDEVIL!
THAT PUTS YOU ONE UP, MISS---
--YOU KNOW ME! CAN'T SAY AS I CAN RETURN THE COMPLIMENT!
SO IT SHOULD REMAIN, MY FRIEND! I AM NOT ONE YOU'D CARE TO KNOW!
DARK SECRETS TIME, EH? LOOK, I'M NOT YOUR AVERAGE MASHER...
--IF THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG--
"THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG, ALL RIGHT-- ONLY IT WASN'T WITH THE CHICK I LATER DISCOVERED WAS MADAME MASQUE..."
HOLD IT!
NETS! WE ARE TRAPPED!
CAREFUL-- CAREFUL, YOU FOOLS! KEEP THOSE NET WIRES TAUT!
WHO--?
SISTER, THAT WAS ONE QUESTION I WAS KINDA HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO ANSWER!
THEY'RE ABOARD, SIR!
ALL SAFE AND SNUGGLY!
WELCOME, MADAME MASQUE ---AND YOU, TOO, DAREDEVIL!
3.

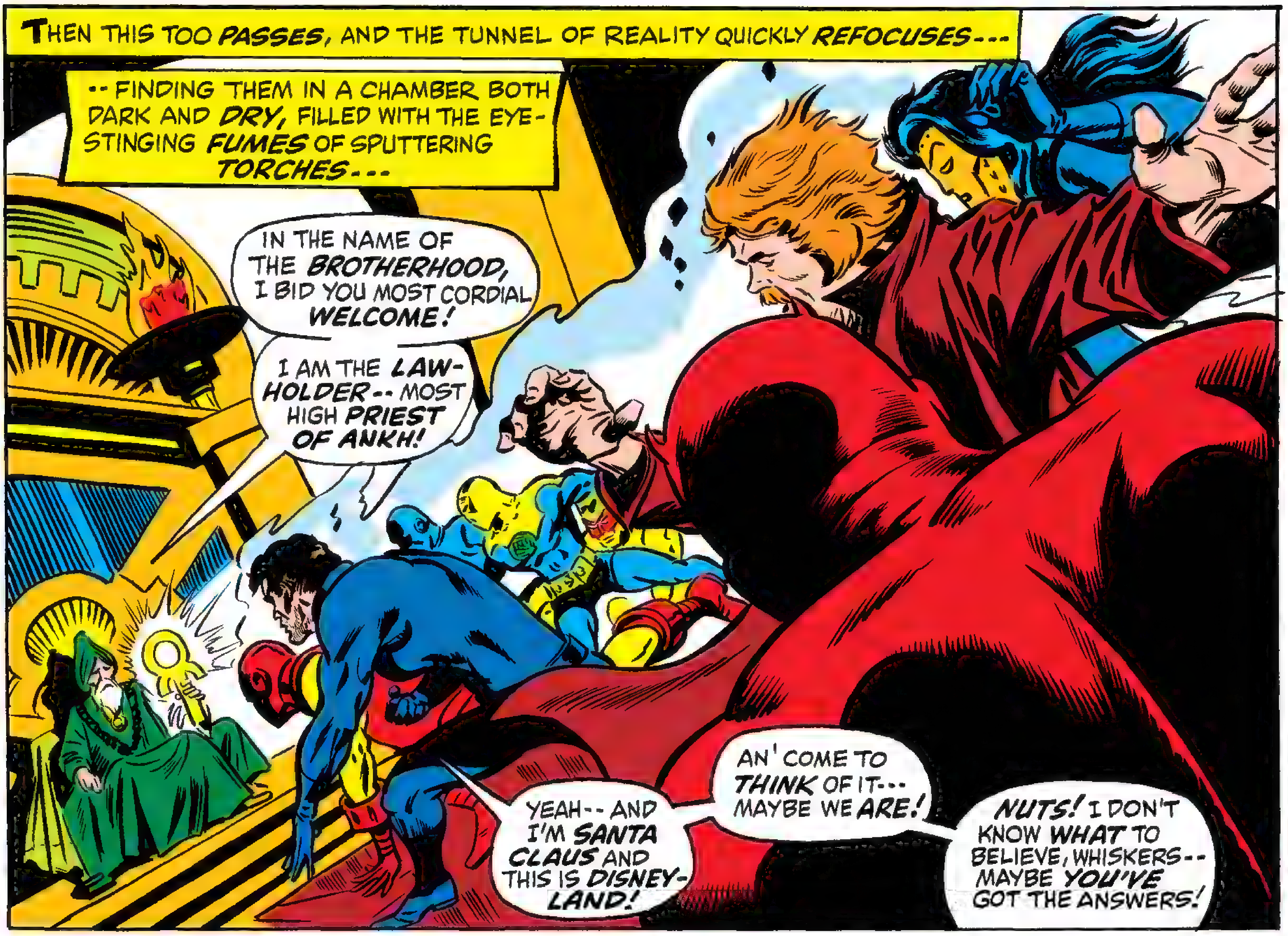

THEY CALL ME--- SPYMASTER! I HOPE THIS LITTLE-- AH, ABDUCTION HASN'T INCONVENIENCED YOU---
BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO REMAIN OUR GUESTS FOR QUITE A WHILE!
SORRY, HANDSOME -- BUT I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS---
--FOR YOU-- AND YOUR SLIPPERY-FINGERED FRIENDS!
THE NET-- -- THEY'RE FREE--AWWK!
THAT WAS HARDLY THE MOST PERCEPTIVE OBSERVATION EVER MADE!
-- BUT AT LEAST IT WAS A PROPOS!
MMMF!
NOW LOOK AT THAT--- HE WALKED RIGHT INTO MY FEET!
YOU MOCK WELL, MY FRIEND!
-- A PITY IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!
UUUUHH!
WHY? WHY DID THE SPYMASTER GO AFTER MADAME MASQUE AND ME? WHAT WAS THE POINT?
THINK, MATTHEW-- USE THAT LEGAL-BEAGLE BRAIN YOU'RE SO PROUD OF--- HOW DOES IT ALL FIT IN?
STEADY, COLONEL!

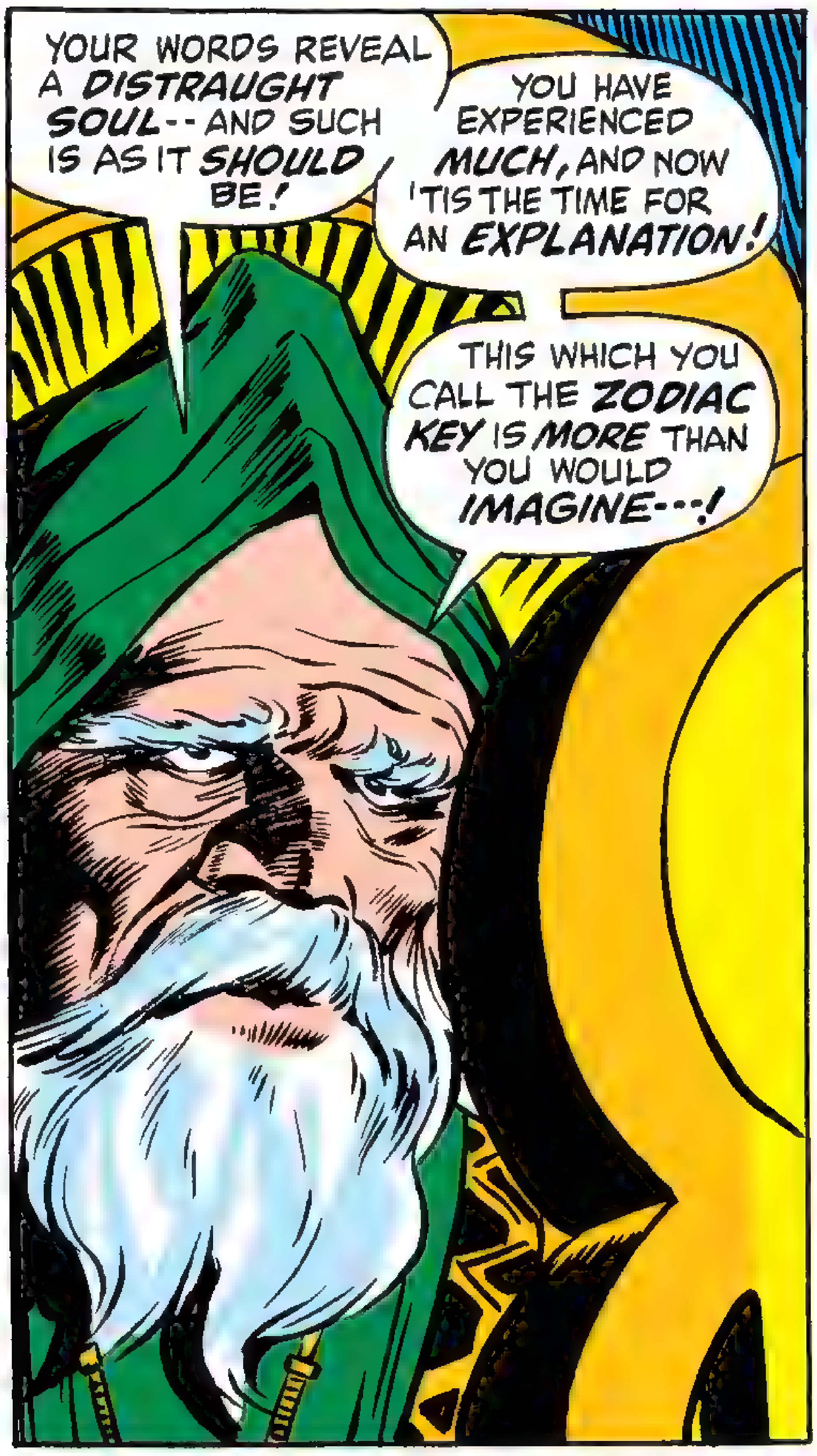

NO USE-- HE CAN'T HEAR ME ANYMORE -- CAN'T HEAR ANYONE!
HIS HEARTBEAT SOUNDS LIKE A GINGER BAKER DRUMROLL ---
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE--- HOW MUCH LONGER CAN HE WITHSTAND THE KEY'S POWER?
IT PROCEEDS WELL, SPYMASTER-- SOON, OUR HALF OF THE BARGAIN WILL BE COMPLETED---
---AND THE OTHERS WILL UPHOLD THEIRS!
AND THEN THE COUNTRY--- NO, THE WORLD WILL BE OURS!
HE'S BREAKING--- THIS IS IT-- THE FINAL MOMENT!
AND WHAT THOUGHTS RACE THROUGH A MAN'S MIND AT THAT MEETING WITH DESTINY? WHAT MEMORIES-- WHAT FORMER TRIUMPHS AND FAILURES?
FOR DAREDEVIL, IT IS A MEMORY OF YET ANOTHER DAY IN CONFLICT WITH THE GANG KNOWN AS THE ZODIAC--*
--HELPLESS! THEY CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE YOU--
---AND UNLESS THE RANSOM IS MET, ALL MANHATTAN WILL DIE!
*AVENGERS #82, BIBLIOPHILES! --STAN.
5

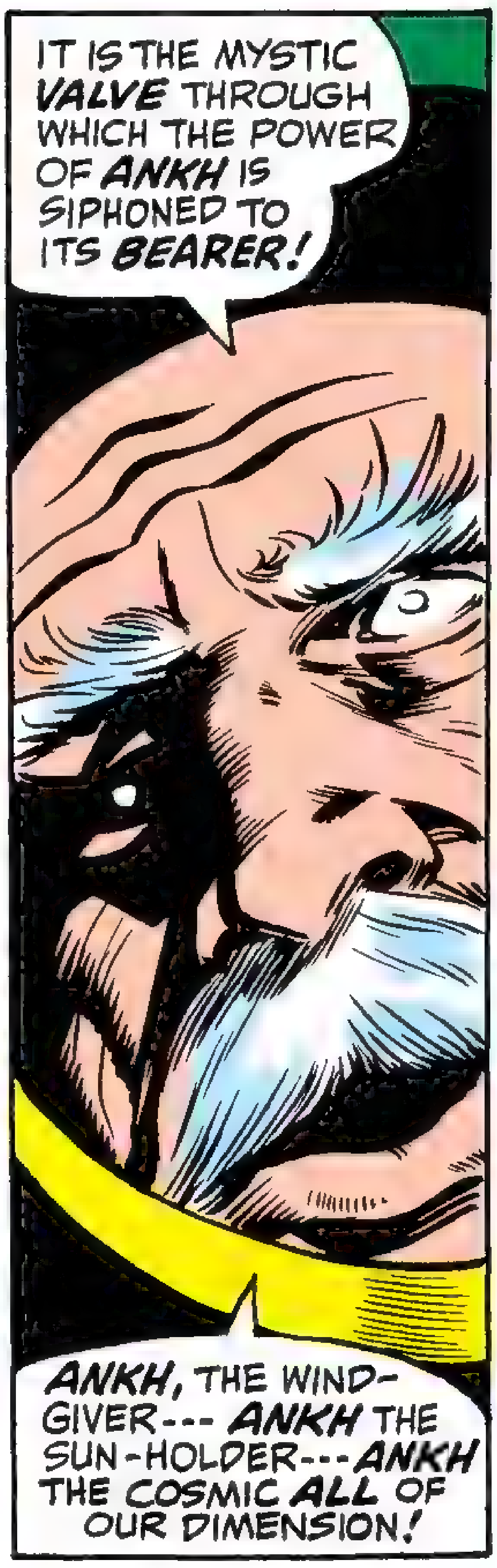

OKAY, MATTHEW -- WHAT NOW? BRAVE MAN IN A DISGUISE -- WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?
THE AVENGERS NEED HELP --
-- SO HELP!
ARE WE ALL GOING TO SIT HERE -- PLAY DEAF AND DUMB -- BE BLIND?
WELL, NOT ME!
YOU BE SHEEP -- I'LL GO DOWN FIGHTING!
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT --
-- THAT'S THE WAY IT'LL BE!
HE'S DOWN! THAT CLINCHES IT!
THE FOOL -- NOW HE'LL BE EXECUTED WITH THE OTHERS!
UH-UNH --- JUST KEEP DRAGGING ME CLOSER TO THE PODIUM --
-- AND IF THAT HUMMING SOUND IS THE MACHINE I THINK IT IS ---
THERE'S GOING TO BE A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME!
GUIDING HIS AIM BY THE DIRECTION OF THE SOUND, MATT PUNCHED A HALF-FOOT LENGTH OF TENSILE-STEEL WIRE INTO THE MACHINE IMPRISONING THE AVENGERS --
FWITT
-- WHICH DID THE EXPECTED JOB ---
NOW SHALL MIGHTY THOR SHOW THESE MORTALS WHAT THEIR GREED HATH WROUGHT ---
DON'T LEAVE OL' SHELL-HEAD OUT OF THAT ACCOUNTING, THUNDER GOD!
WE'VE EACH GOT OUR OWN PRIVATE SCORES TO SETTLE!

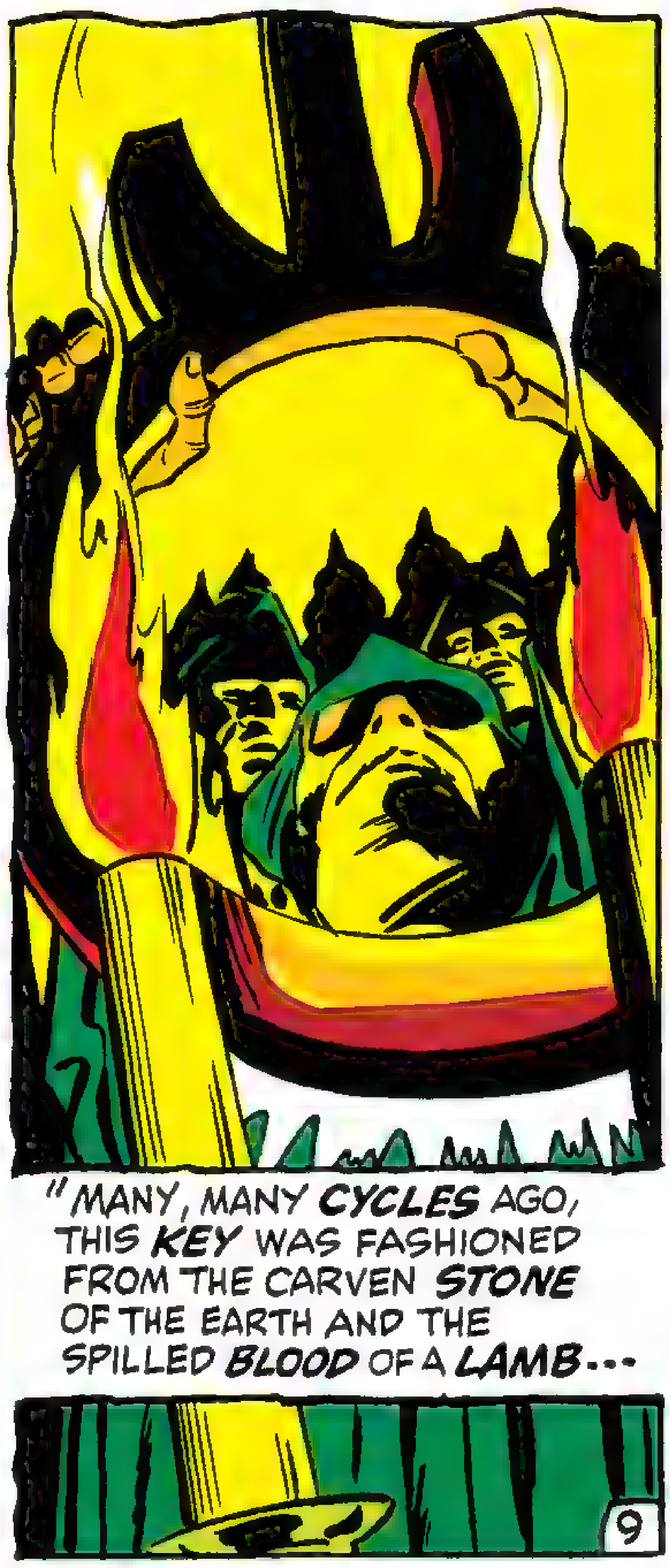

WE WON THAT TIME-- BUT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH ALL OUR LUCKY CHIPS ARE GONE--!
IF ONLY I COULD UNDERSTAND..
NOW! HE'S TAKING IT NOW!
HE'S GOT IT, CAPRICORN!
KILL THEM, FURY! KILL THEM NOW!
NO! THAT IS NOT OUR PURPOSE!!
AGAIN, THAT MYSTERIOUS, ETHEREAL VOICE--SEEMING ALMOST TO COME FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE ZODIAC KEY ITSELF--!
NICHOLAS FURY--YOU HAVE THE POWER OF THE KEY---
USE IT AS YOU KNOW YOU MUST!
EEEEEEEEEAIIIIIIIEEEEEEEEEE
OOOO
AND, LIKE THE SCREAM OF A THOUSAND HIDEOUS DEVILS, A PIERCING WAIL FILLS THE SMOKE-BLACKENED CHAMBER! LIGHT, SOUND, FIRE--ALL MINGLE IN A SEARING BURST OF ENERGY FROM THE FIERCELY GLOWING KEY!
THE HOWLING CRY RISES, AND, AS SUDDENLY--

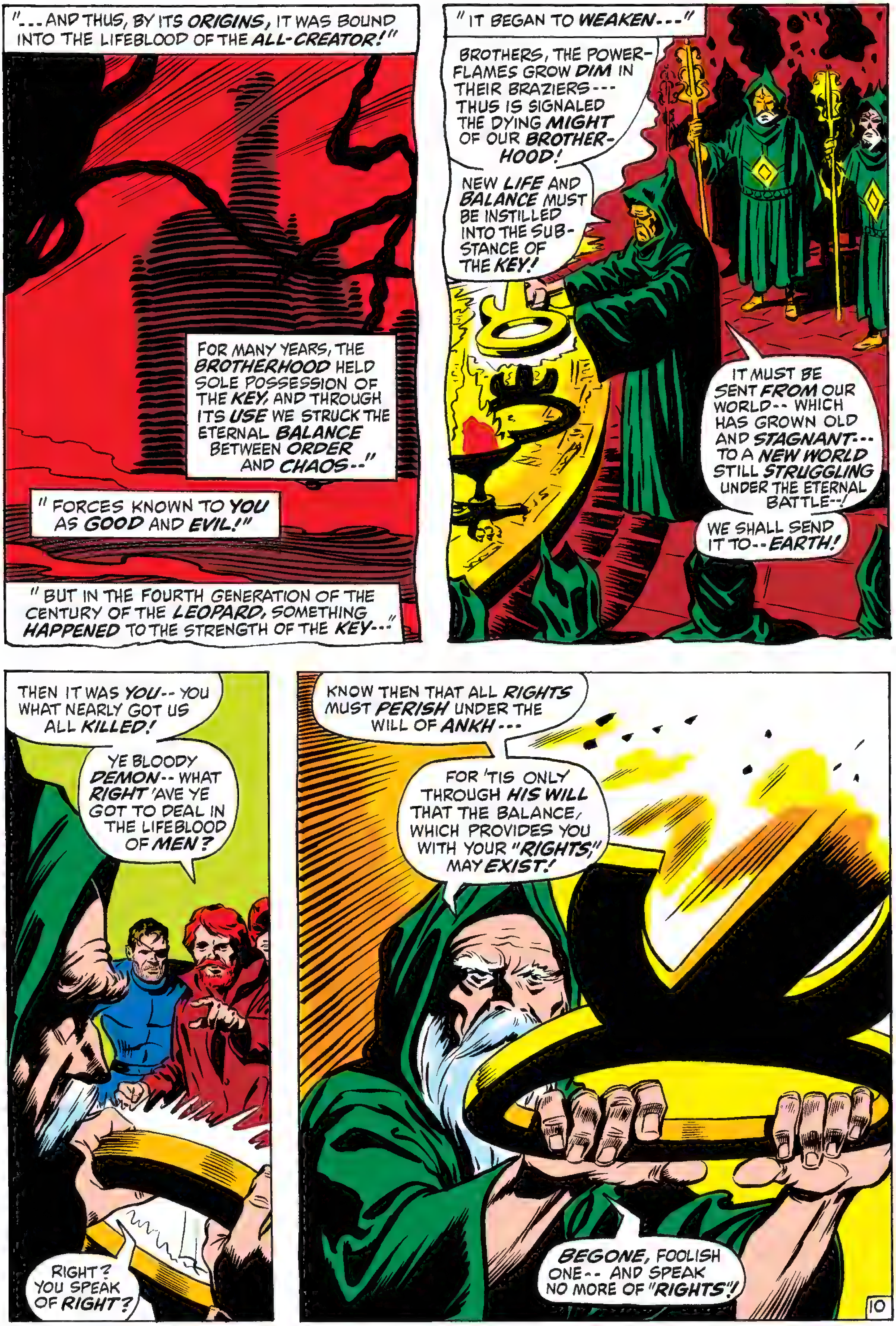

--DIES!!
FOR ONE MADDENING MOMENT, THE VERY FABRIC OF TIME AND SPACE FOLDS IN UPON ITSELF, CAVING IN WITH A SOUNDLESS ROAR LIKE THE FOAM OF A MILLION ROCK-CRAGGED BEACHES---
MOUTHS OPEN LUNGS YEARNING TO SCREAM, FINDING NOT THE AIR TO FILL THEM, THE FIVE HEROES SPIN THROUGH A MIASMA OF WARPED INFINITY---
---SPINNING, FALLING, SINKING DOWN AND DOWN AND DOWN AN INVOLUTED TUNNEL FOR WHAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY, UNTIL ALL ELSE BECOMES BUT A FADING DREAM THAT QUICKLY PASSES--LEAVING NAUGHT BUT THE FALLING!

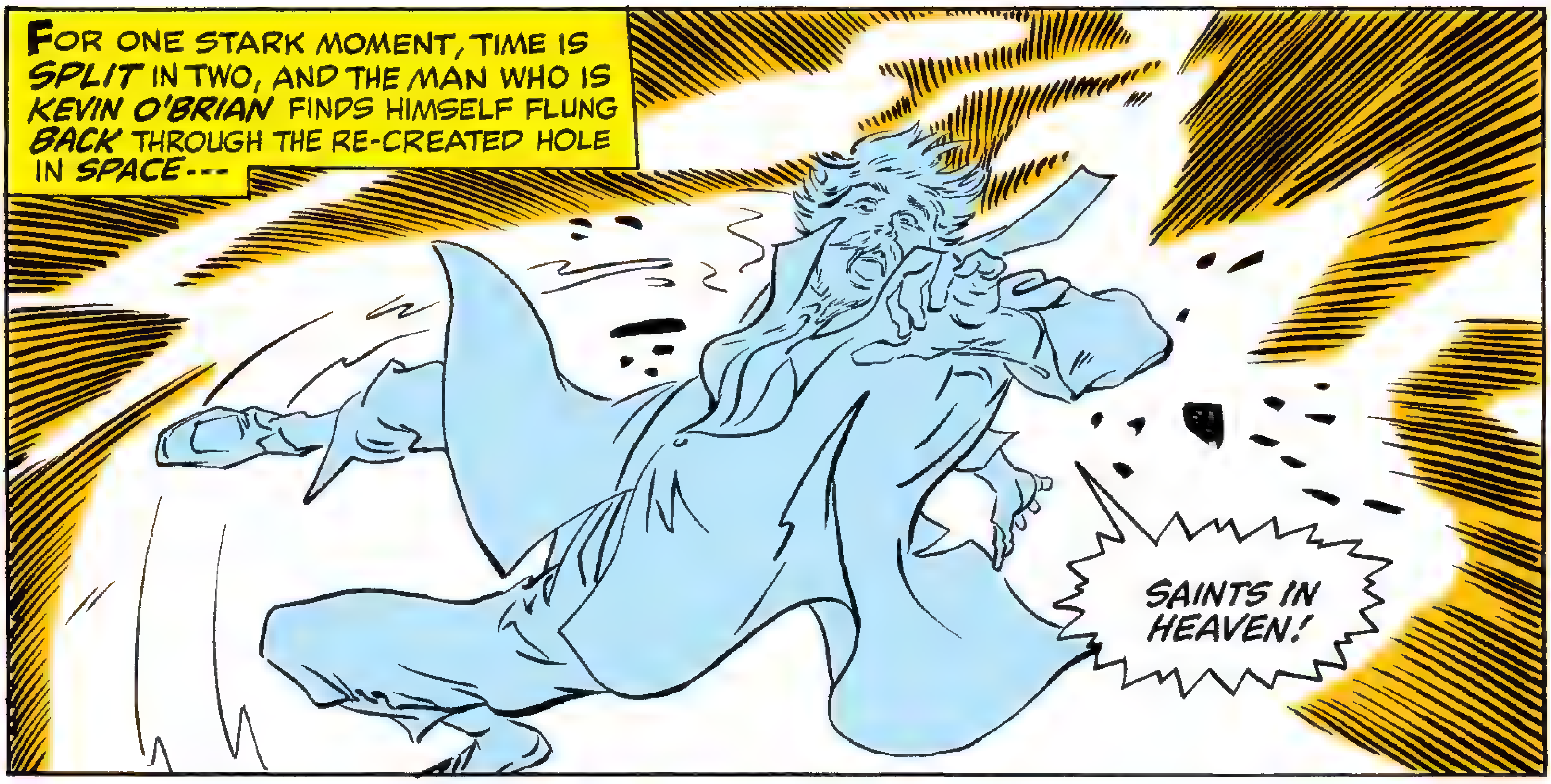

THEN THIS TOO *PASSES*, AND THE TUNNEL OF REALITY QUICKLY *REFOCUSES*---
-- FINDING THEM IN A CHAMBER BOTH DARK AND *DRY*, FILLED WITH THE EYE-STINGING *FUMES* OF SPUTTERING *TORCHES*---
IN THE NAME OF THE *BROTHERHOOD*, I BID YOU MOST CORDIAL *WELCOME!*
I AM THE *LAW-HOLDER* -- MOST HIGH *PRIEST OF ANKH!*
YEAH -- AND I'M *SANTA CLAUS* AND THIS IS *DISNEYLAND!*
AN' COME TO *THINK* OF IT--- MAYBE WE *ARE!*
NUTS! I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO BELIEVE, WHISKERS -- MAYBE *YOU'VE* GOT THE ANSWERS!

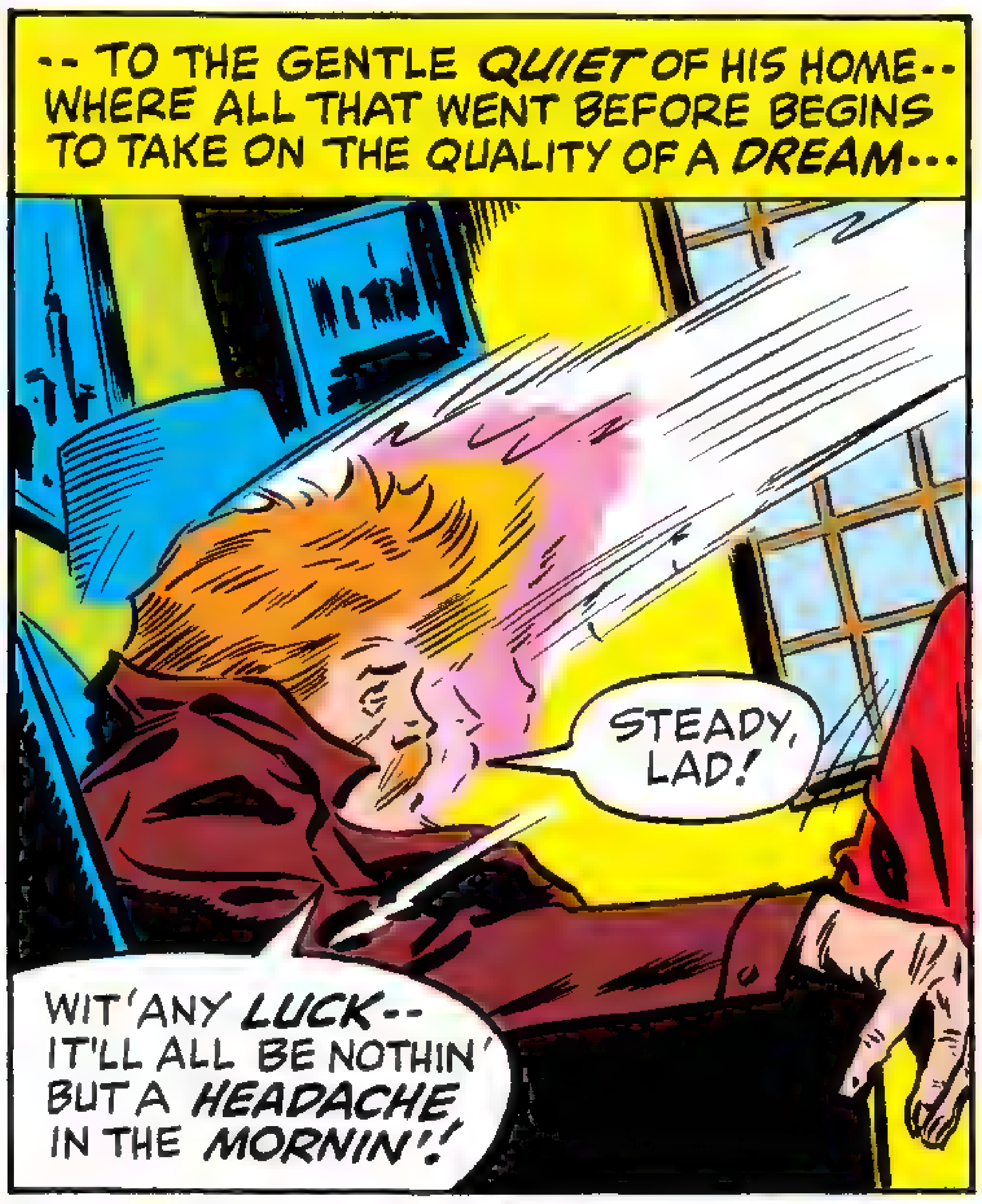

YOUR WORDS REVEAL A *DISTRAUGHT SOUL* -- AND SUCH IS AS IT *SHOULD* BE!
YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED *MUCH*, AND NOW 'TIS THE TIME FOR AN *EXPLANATION!*
THIS WHICH YOU CALL THE *ZODIAC KEY* IS *MORE* THAN YOU WOULD *IMAGINE*---!

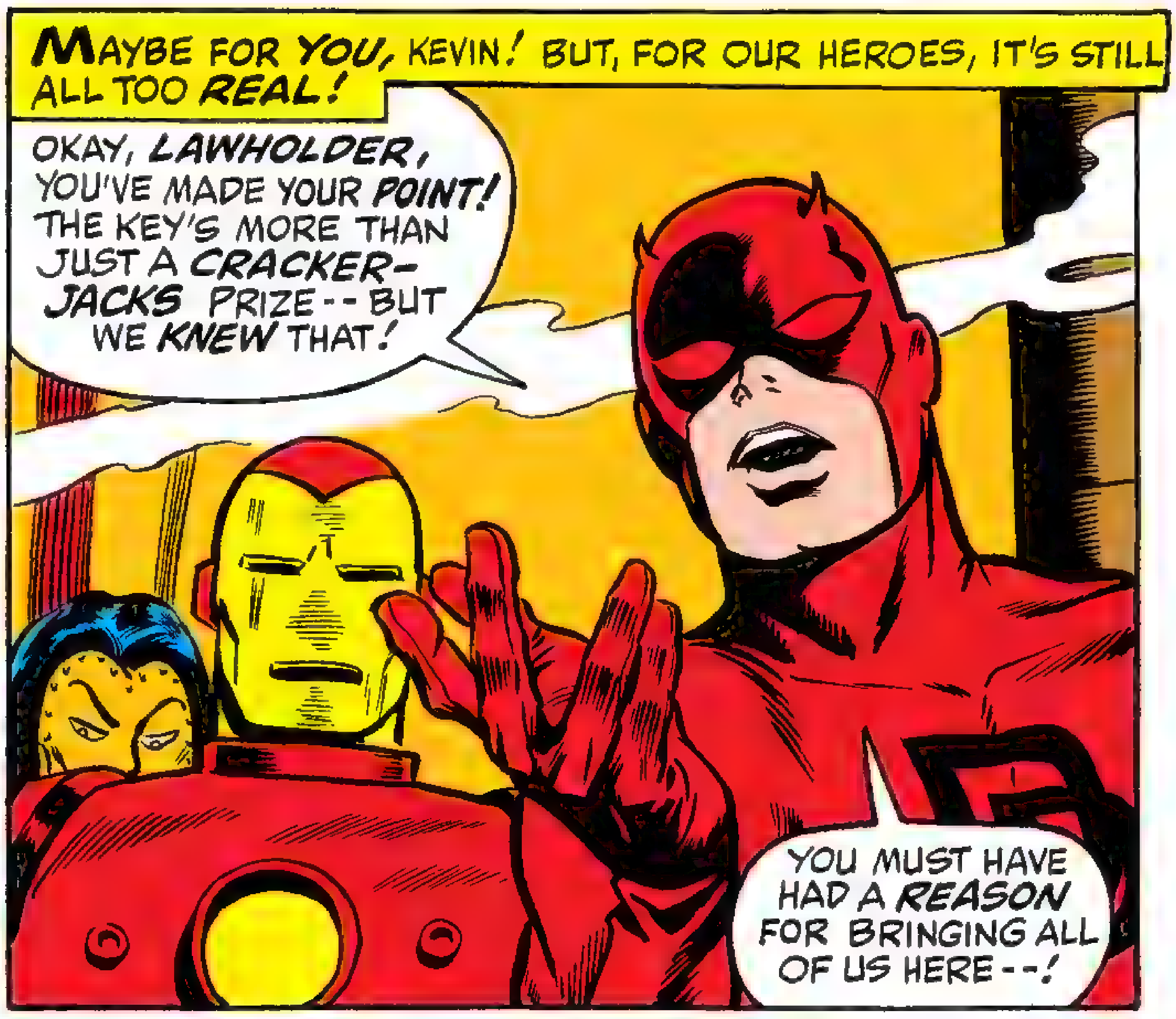

IT IS THE MYSTIC *VALVE* THROUGH WHICH THE POWER OF *ANKH* IS SIPHONED TO ITS *BEARER!*
ANKH, THE WIND-GIVER--- *ANKH* THE SUN-HOLDER--- *ANKH* THE COSMIC *ALL* OF OUR DIMENSION!

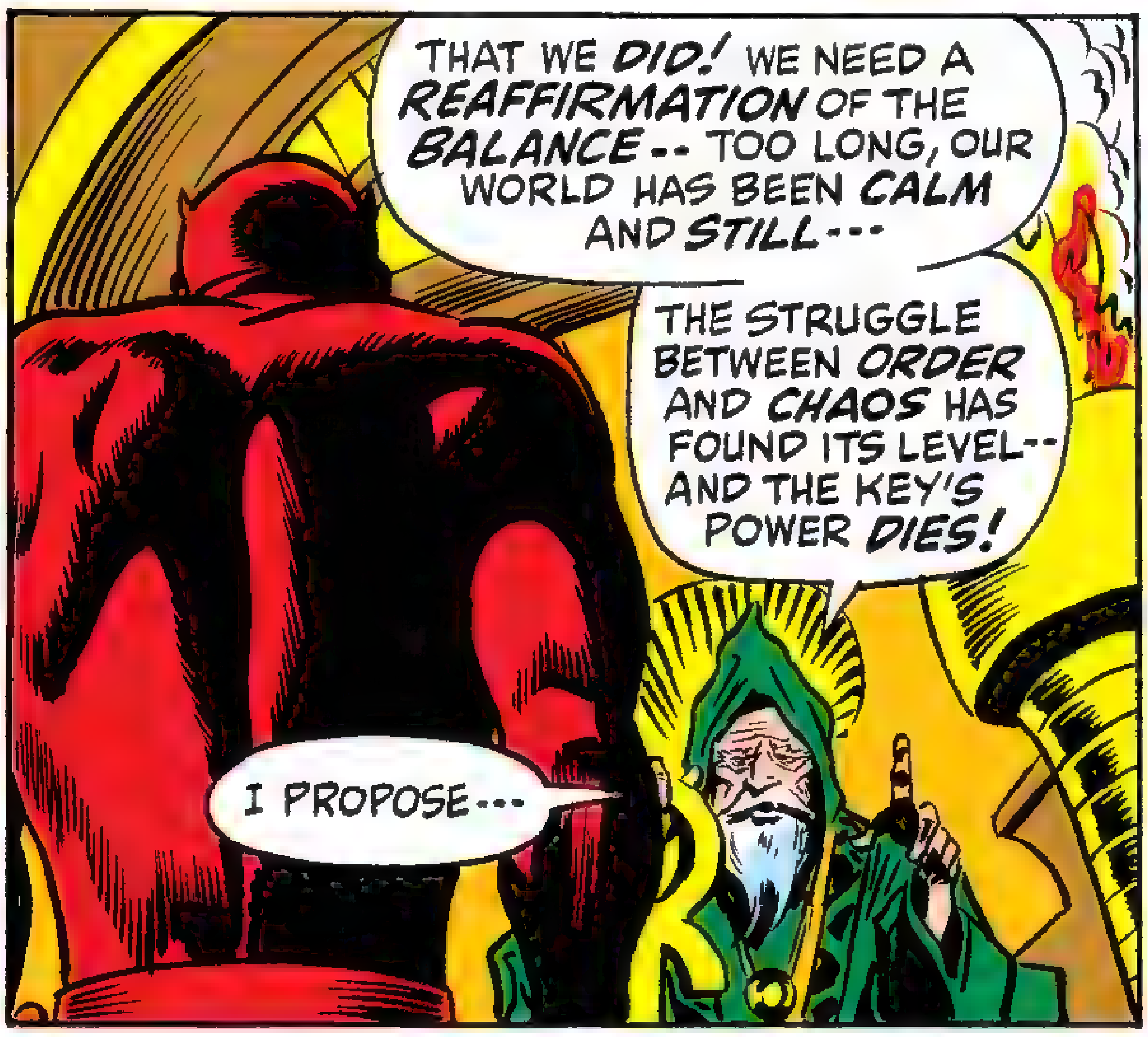

"MANY, MANY *CYCLES* AGO, THIS *KEY* WAS FASHIONED FROM THE CARVEN *STONE* OF THE EARTH AND THE SPILLED *BLOOD* OF A *LAMB*---

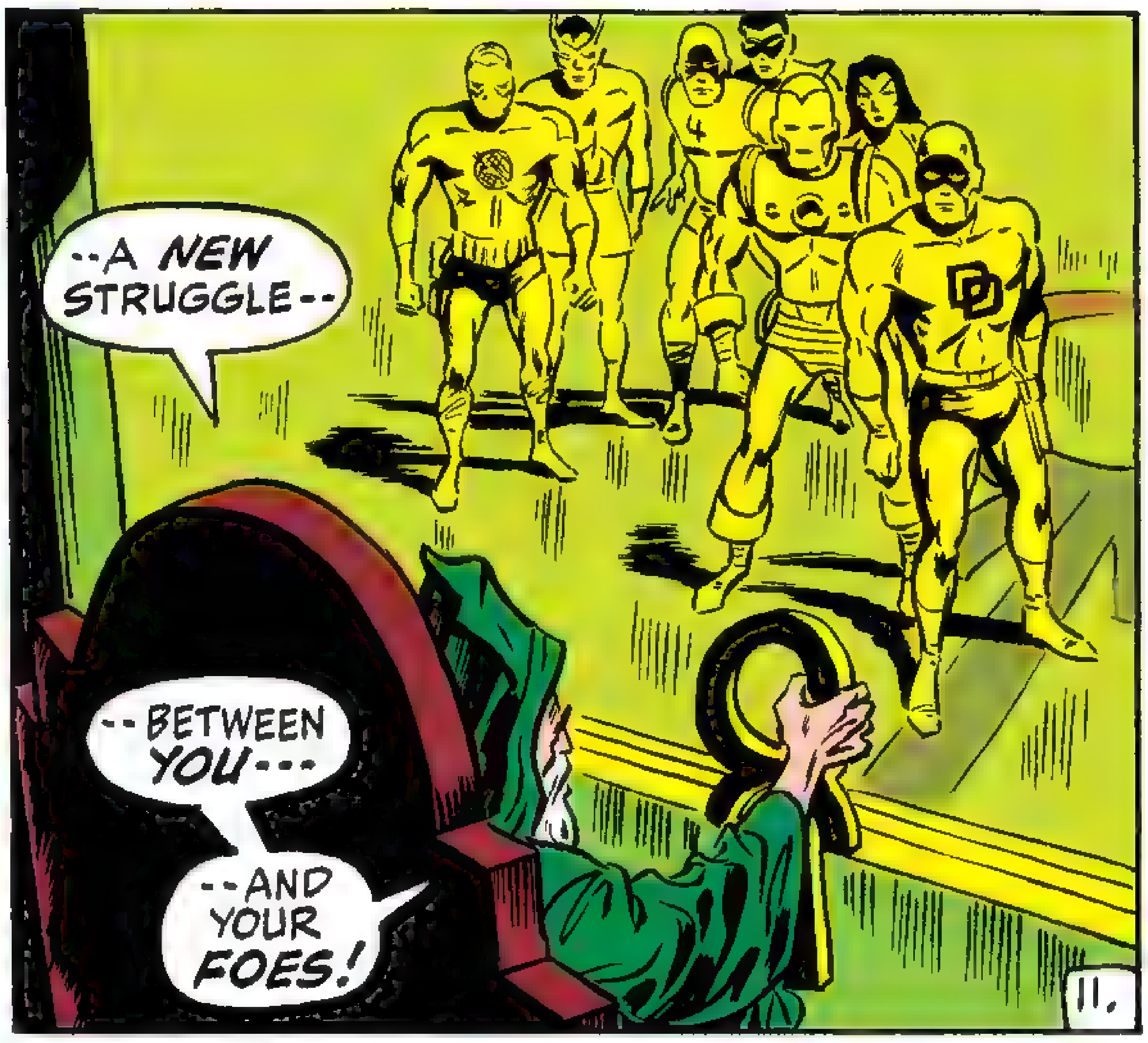

"...AND THUS, BY ITS *ORIGINS*, IT WAS BOUND INTO THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE *ALL-CREATOR!*"
FOR MANY YEARS, THE *BROTHERHOOD* HELD SOLE POSSESSION OF THE *KEY*, AND THROUGH ITS *USE* WE STRUCK THE ETERNAL *BALANCE* BETWEEN *ORDER* AND *CHAOS*--"
" FORCES KNOWN TO *YOU* AS *GOOD* AND *EVIL!*"
" BUT IN THE FOURTH GENERATION OF THE CENTURY OF THE *LEOPARD*, SOMETHING *HAPPENED* TO THE STRENGTH OF THE *KEY*--"
" IT BEGAN TO *WEAKEN*---"
BROTHERS, THE POWER-FLAMES GROW *DIM* IN THEIR BRAZIERS--- THUS IS SIGNALED THE DYING *MIGHT* OF OUR *BROTHERHOOD!*
NEW *LIFE* AND *BALANCE* MUST BE INSTILLED INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE *KEY!*
IT MUST BE SENT *FROM* OUR WORLD-- WHICH HAS GROWN OLD AND *STAGNANT*--- TO A *NEW WORLD* STILL *STRUGGLING* UNDER THE ETERNAL BATTLE--!
WE SHALL SEND IT TO--*EARTH!*
THEN IT WAS *YOU*-- YOU WHAT NEARLY GOT US ALL *KILLED!*
YE BLOODY *DEMON*-- WHAT *RIGHT* 'AVE YE GOT TO DEAL IN THE LIFEBLOOD OF *MEN?*
RIGHT? YOU SPEAK OF *RIGHT?*
KNOW THEN THAT ALL *RIGHTS* MUST *PERISH* UNDER THE WILL OF *ANKH*---
FOR 'TIS ONLY THROUGH *HIS WILL* THAT THE BALANCE, WHICH PROVIDES YOU WITH YOUR "*RIGHTS*," MAY *EXIST!*
BEGONE, FOOLISH ONE-- AND SPEAK NO MORE OF "*RIGHTS*"!

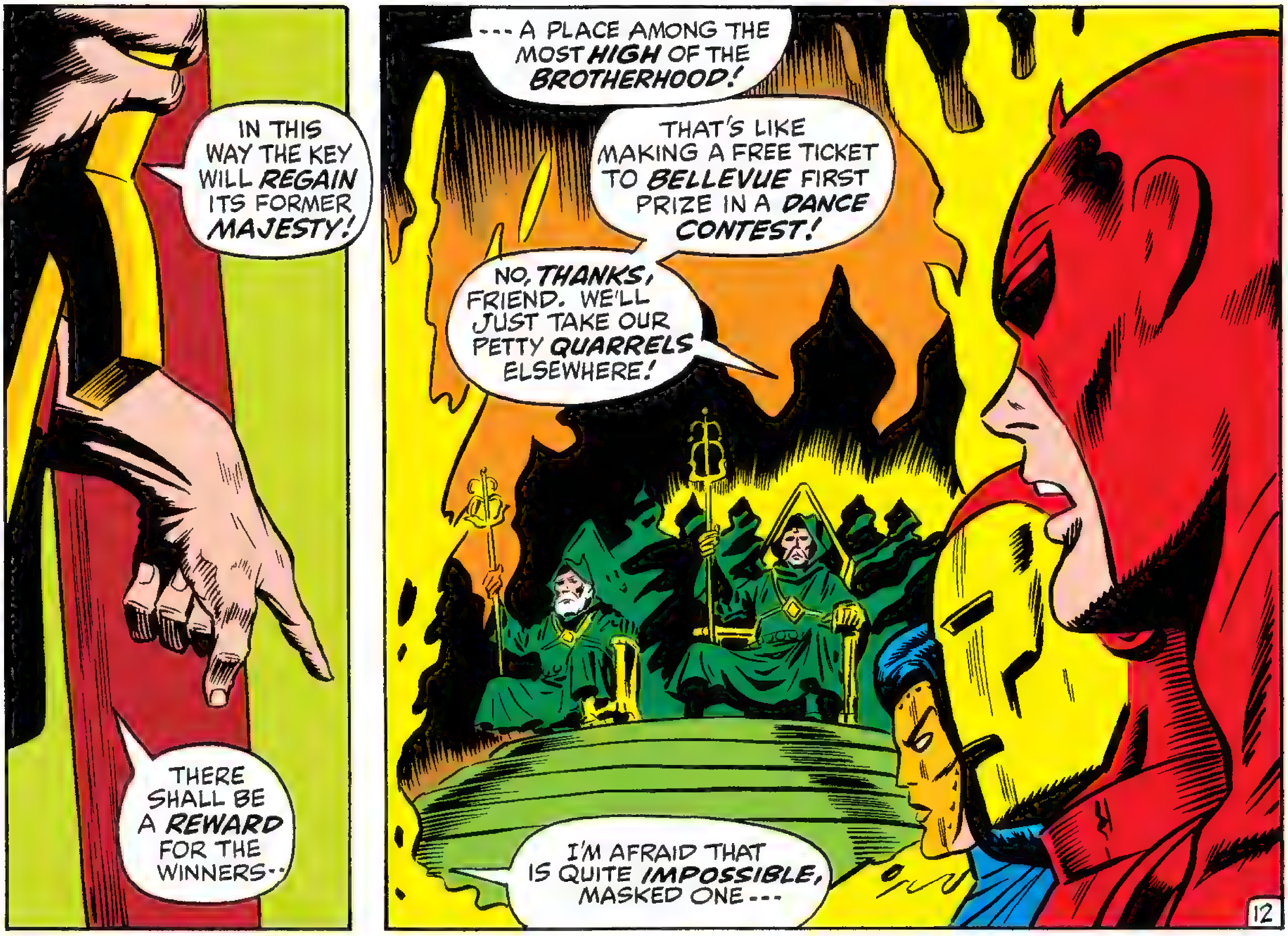

FOR ONE STARK MOMENT, TIME IS SPLIT IN TWO, AND THE MAN WHO IS KEVIN O'BRIAN FINDS HIMSELF FLUNG BACK THROUGH THE RE-CREATED HOLE IN SPACE---
SAINTS IN HEAVEN!

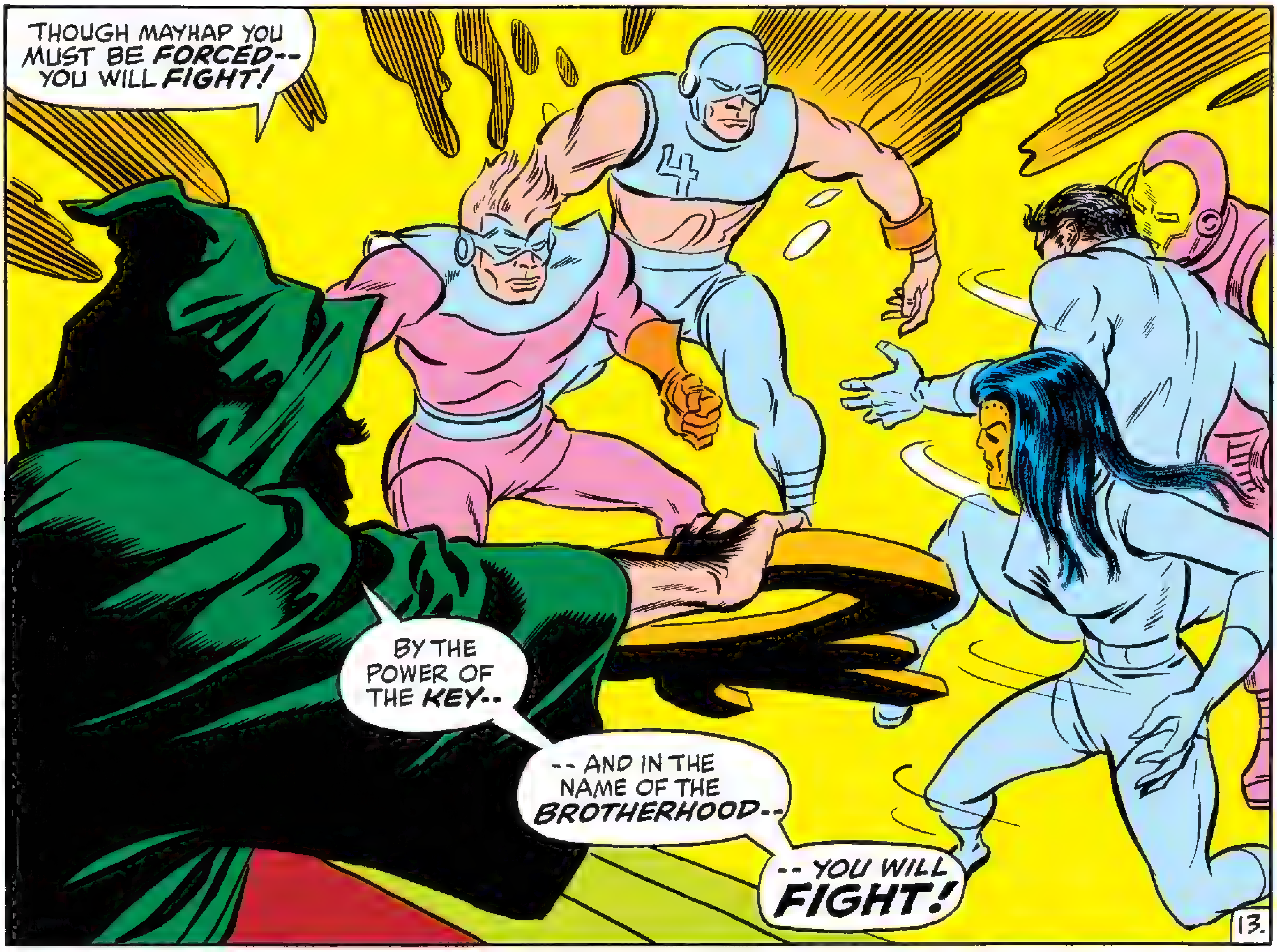

-- TO THE GENTLE QUIET OF HIS HOME-- WHERE ALL THAT WENT BEFORE BEGINS TO TAKE ON THE QUALITY OF A DREAM---
STEADY, LAD!
WIT' ANY LUCK-- IT'LL ALL BE NOTHIN' BUT A HEADACHE IN THE MORNIN'!

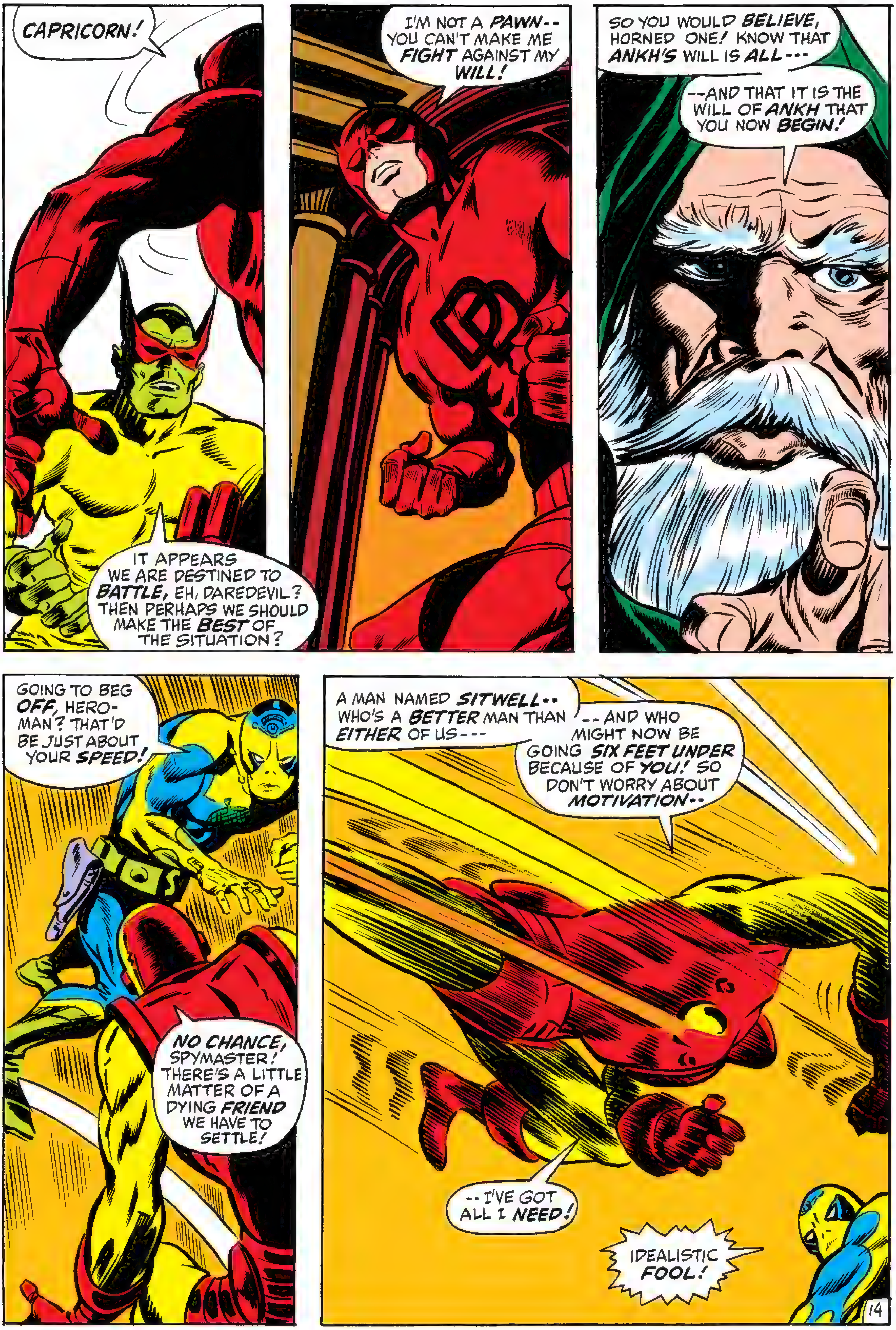

MAYBE FOR YOU, KEVIN! BUT, FOR OUR HEROES, IT'S STILL ALL TOO REAL!
OKAY, LAWHOLDER, YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT! THE KEY'S MORE THAN JUST A CRACKER-JACKS PRIZE -- BUT WE KNEW THAT!
YOU MUST HAVE HAD A REASON FOR BRINGING ALL OF US HERE --!

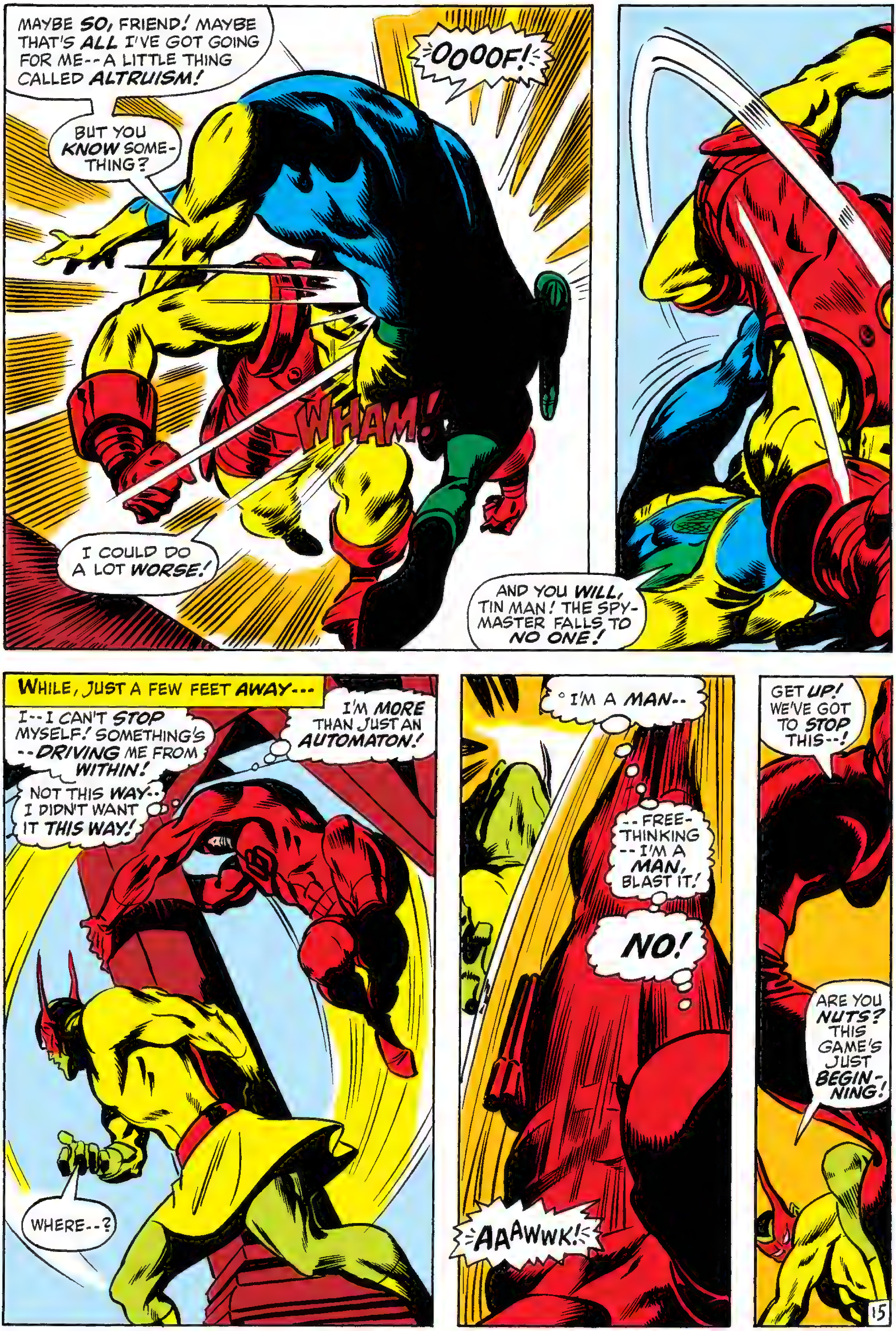

THAT WE DID! WE NEED A REAFFIRMATION OF THE BALANCE -- TOO LONG, OUR WORLD HAS BEEN CALM AND STILL---
THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN ORDER AND CHAOS HAS FOUND ITS LEVEL-- AND THE KEY'S POWER DIES!
I PROPOSE---

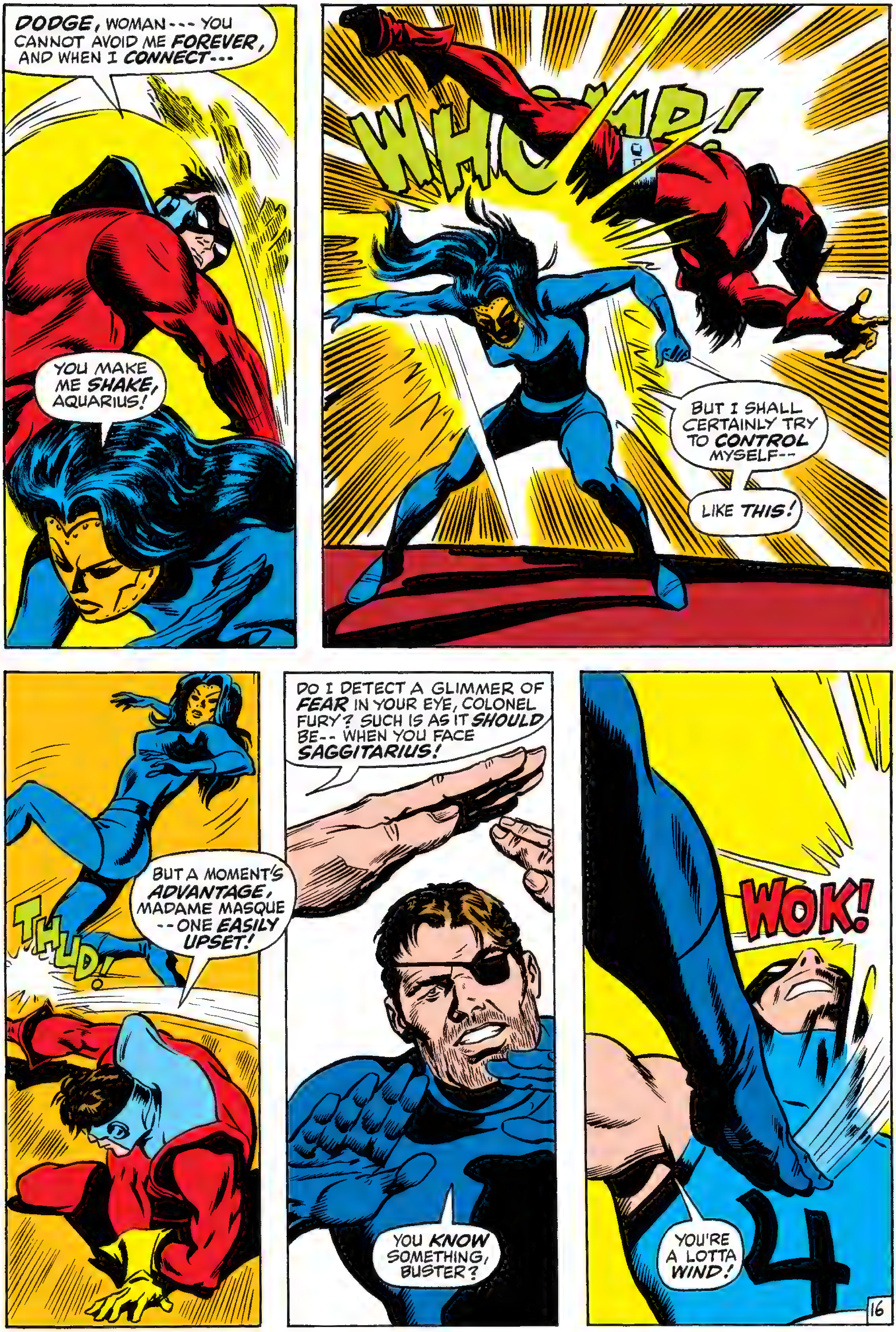

--A NEW STRUGGLE--
--BETWEEN YOU---
--AND YOUR FOES!

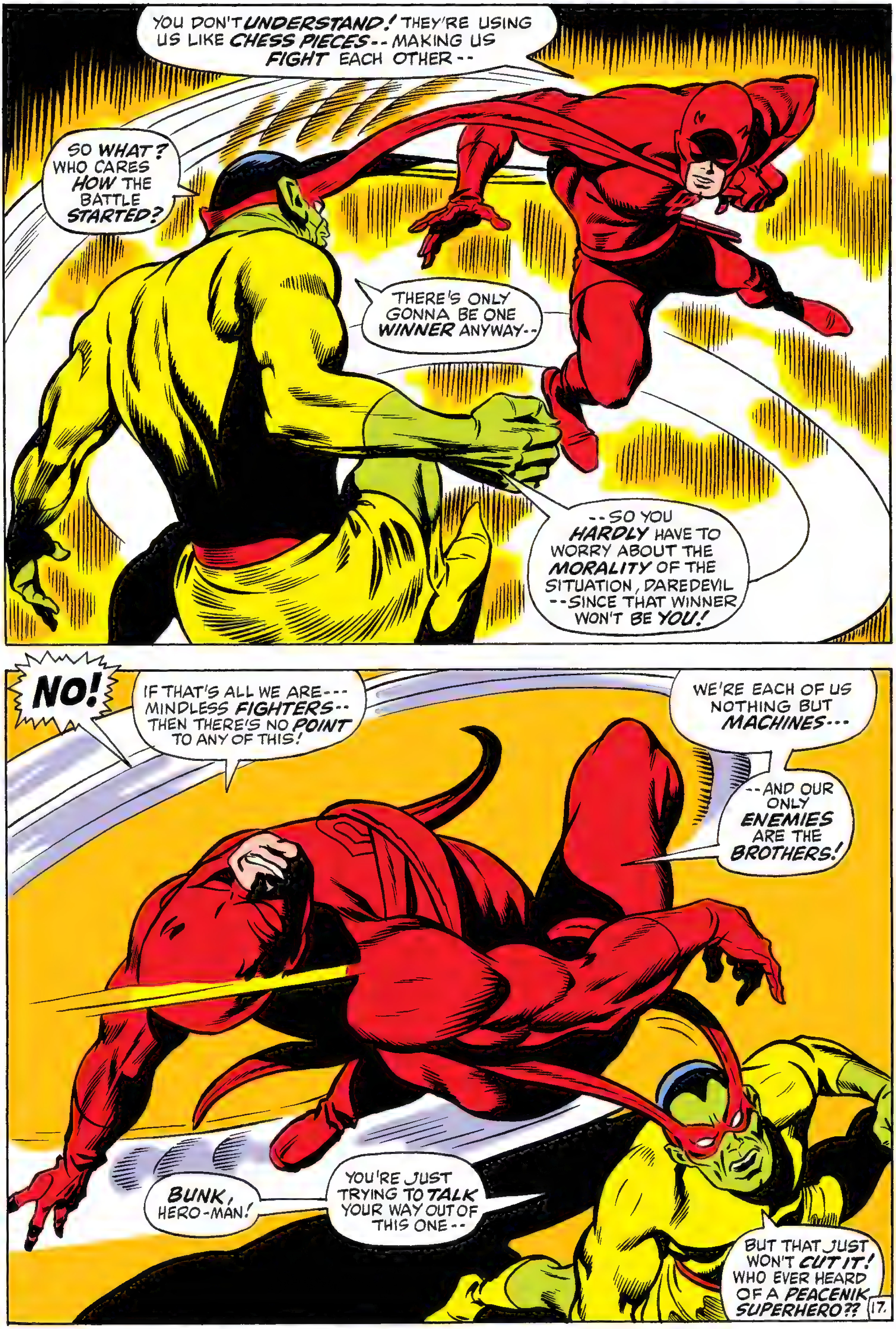

IN THIS WAY THE KEY WILL REGAIN ITS FORMER MAJESTY!
THERE SHALL BE A REWARD FOR THE WINNERS--
--- A PLACE AMONG THE MOST HIGH OF THE BROTHERHOOD!
THAT'S LIKE MAKING A FREE TICKET TO BELLEVUE FIRST PRIZE IN A DANCE CONTEST!
NO, THANKS, FRIEND. WE'LL JUST TAKE OUR PETTY QUARRELS ELSEWHERE!
I'M AFRAID THAT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE, MASKED ONE ---
12

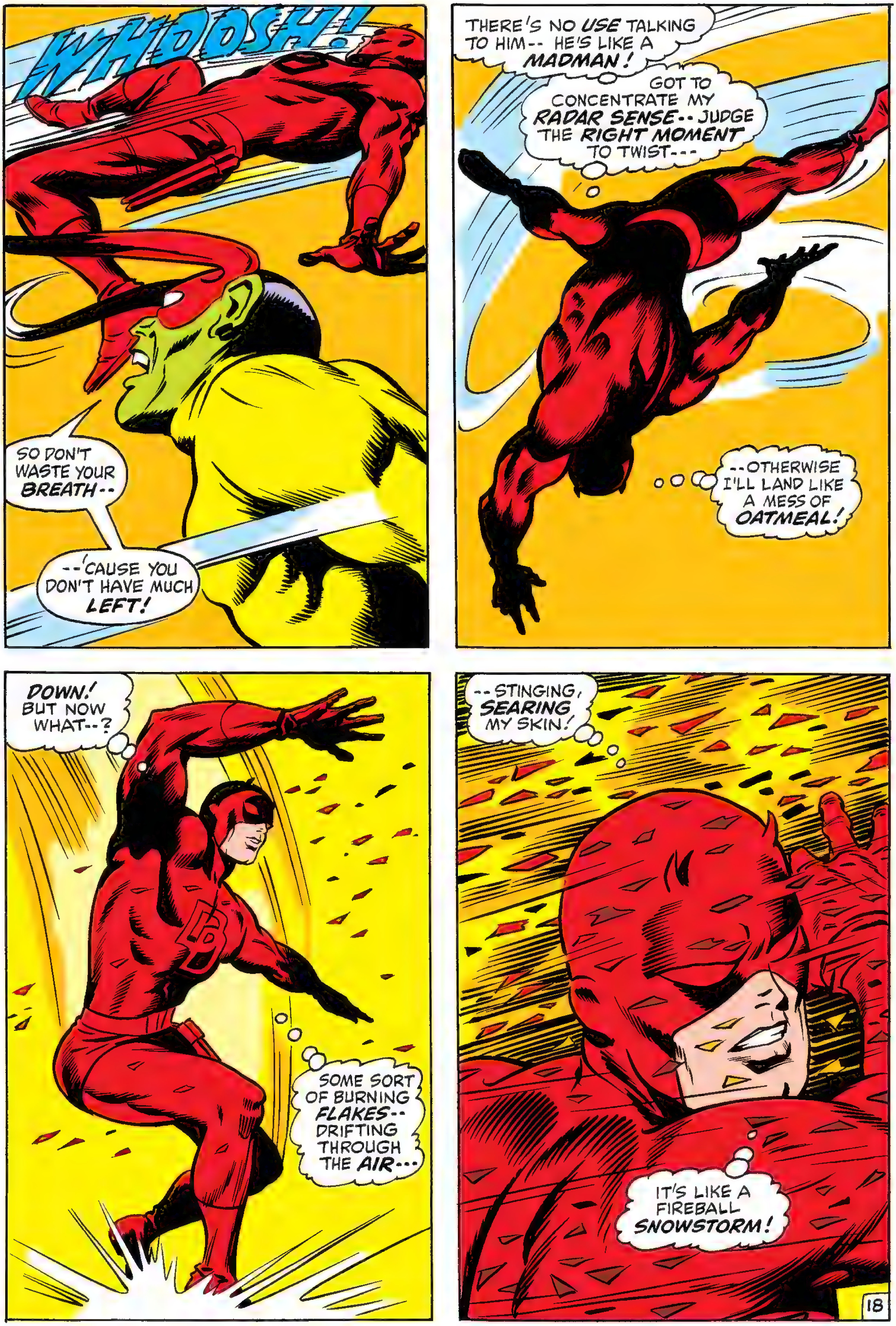

THOUGH MAYHAP YOU MUST BE FORCED-- YOU WILL FIGHT!
BY THE POWER OF THE KEY..
-- AND IN THE NAME OF THE BROTHERHOOD--
-- YOU WILL FIGHT!
13.

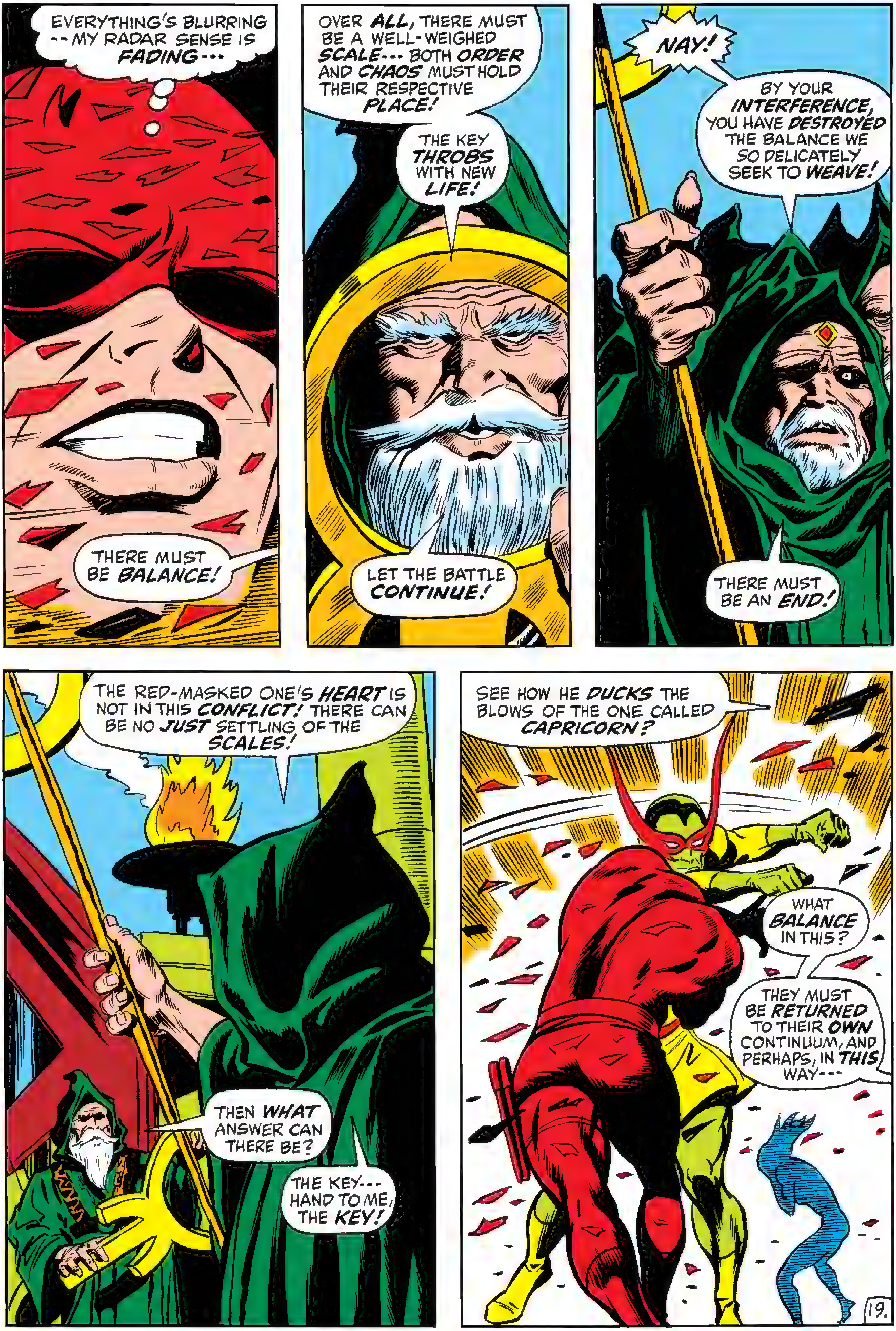

CAPRICORN!
IT APPEARS WE ARE DESTINED TO BATTLE, EH, DAREDEVIL? THEN PERHAPS WE SHOULD MAKE THE BEST OF THE SITUATION?
I'M NOT A PAWN-- YOU CAN'T MAKE ME FIGHT AGAINST MY WILL!
SO YOU WOULD BELIEVE, HORNED ONE! KNOW THAT ANKH'S WILL IS ALL---
--AND THAT IT IS THE WILL OF ANKH THAT YOU NOW BEGIN!
GOING TO BEG OFF, HERO-MAN? THAT'D BE JUST ABOUT YOUR SPEED!
NO CHANCE, SPYMASTER! THERE'S A LITTLE MATTER OF A DYING FRIEND WE HAVE TO SETTLE!
A MAN NAMED SITWELL-- WHO'S A BETTER MAN THAN EITHER OF US---
--AND WHO MIGHT NOW BE GOING SIX FEET UNDER BECAUSE OF YOU! SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT MOTIVATION--
--I'VE GOT ALL I NEED!
IDEALISTIC FOOL!

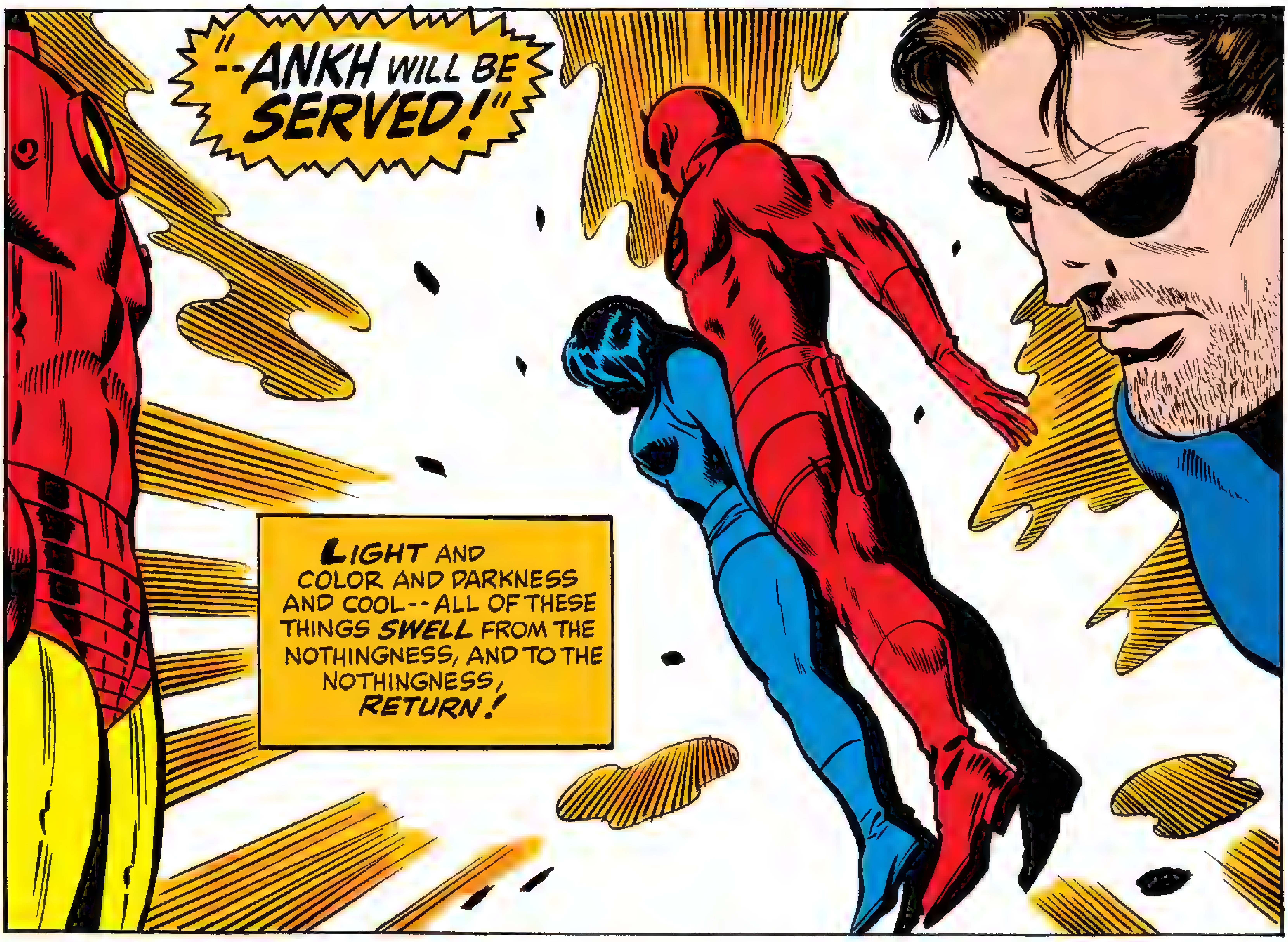

MAYBE SO, FRIEND! MAYBE THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT GOING FOR ME--A LITTLE THING CALLED ALTRUISM!
OOOOF!
BUT YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
WHAM!
I COULD DO A LOT WORSE!
AND YOU WILL, TIN MAN! THE SPY-MASTER FALLS TO NO ONE!
WHILE, JUST A FEW FEET AWAY---
I--I CAN'T STOP MYSELF! SOMETHING'S --DRIVING ME FROM WITHIN!
I'M MORE THAN JUST AN AUTOMATON!
NOT THIS WAY-- I DIDN'T WANT IT THIS WAY!
WHERE--?
I'M A MAN--
--FREE-THINKING --I'M A MAN, BLAST IT!
NO!
AAAWWK!
GET UP! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THIS--!
ARE YOU NUTS? THIS GAME'S JUST BEGINNING!

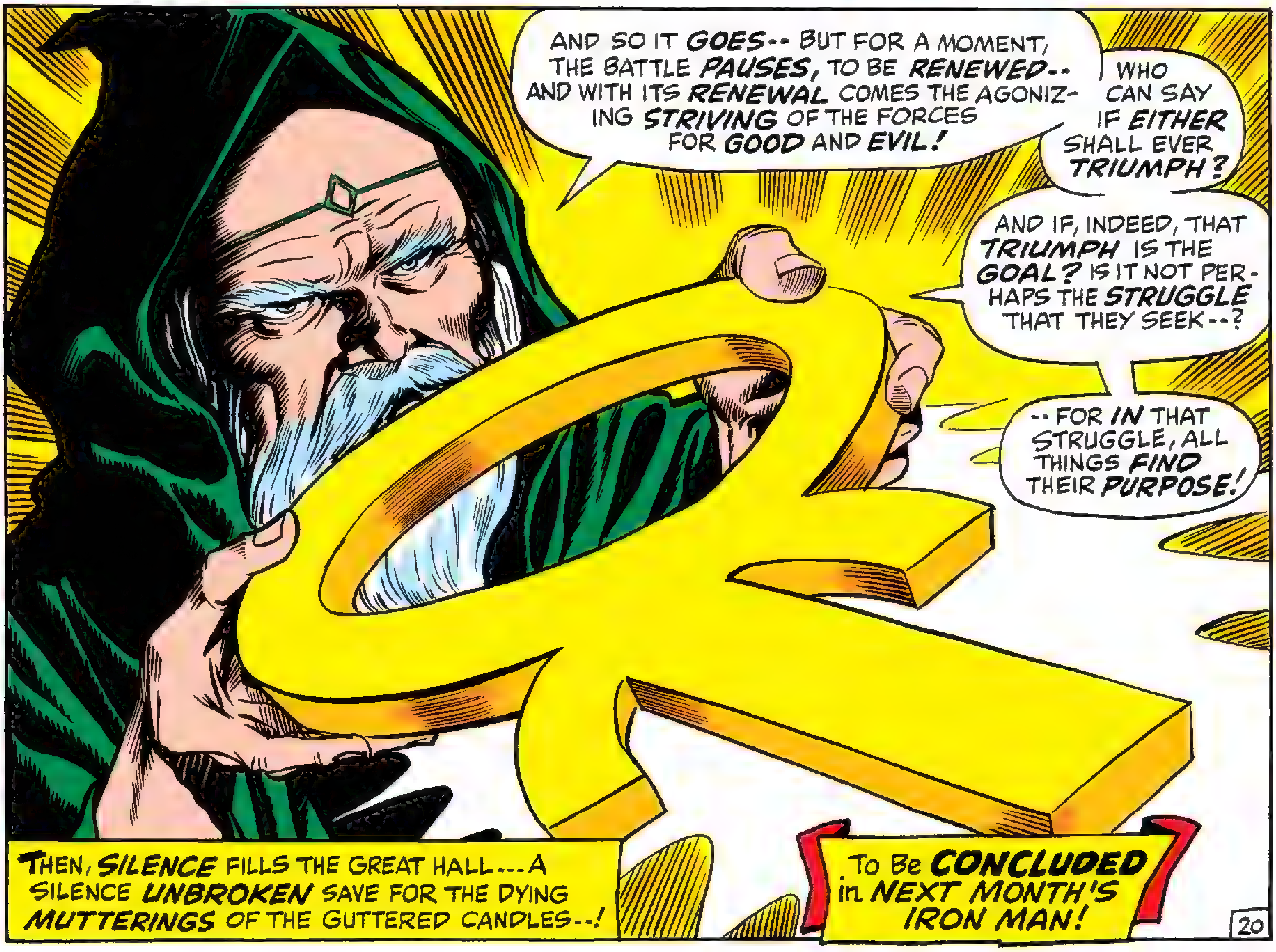

DODGE, WOMAN--- YOU CANNOT AVOID ME FOREVER, AND WHEN I CONNECT---
YOU MAKE ME SHAKE, AQUARIUS!
WHOMP!
BUT I SHALL CERTAINLY TRY TO CONTROL MYSELF--
LIKE THIS!
THUD!
BUT A MOMENT'S ADVANTAGE, MADAME MASQUE --ONE EASILY UPSET!
DO I DETECT A GLIMMER OF FEAR IN YOUR EYE, COLONEL FURY? SUCH IS AS IT SHOULD BE-- WHEN YOU FACE SAGGITARIUS!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, BUSTER?
WOK!
YOU'RE A LOTTA WIND!


YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND!* THEY'RE USING US LIKE *CHESS PIECES*-- MAKING US *FIGHT* EACH OTHER--
SO *WHAT?* WHO CARES *HOW* THE BATTLE *STARTED?*
THERE'S ONLY GONNA BE ONE *WINNER* ANYWAY--
--SO YOU *HARDLY* HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE *MORALITY* OF THE SITUATION, DAREDEVIL --SINCE THAT WINNER WON'T BE *YOU!*
NO!
IF THAT'S ALL WE ARE--- MINDLESS *FIGHTERS*-- THEN THERE'S NO *POINT* TO ANY OF THIS!
WE'RE EACH OF US NOTHING BUT *MACHINES*---
--AND OUR ONLY *ENEMIES* ARE THE *BROTHERS!*
BUNK, HERO-MAN!
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO *TALK* YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS ONE--
BUT THAT JUST WON'T *CUT IT!* WHO EVER HEARD OF A *PEACENIK SUPERHERO??*

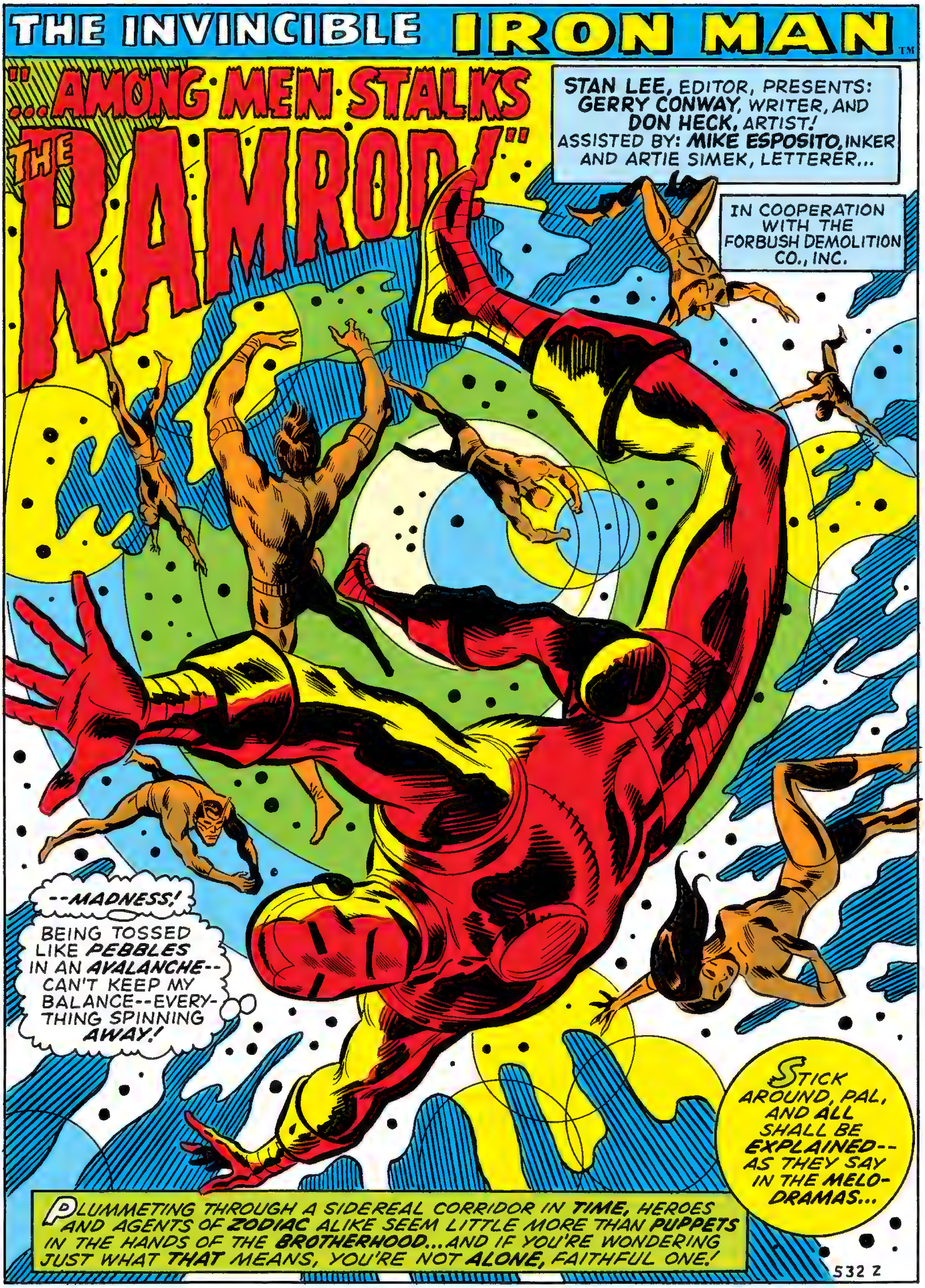

WHOOSH!
SO DON'T WASTE YOUR *BREATH*--
--'CAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH *LEFT!*
THERE'S NO *USE* TALKING TO HIM-- HE'S LIKE A *MADMAN!*
GOT TO CONCENTRATE MY *RADAR SENSE*-- JUDGE THE *RIGHT MOMENT* TO TWIST---
--OTHERWISE I'LL LAND LIKE A MESS OF *OATMEAL!*
DOWN! BUT NOW WHAT--?
SOME SORT OF BURNING *FLAKES*-- DRIFTING THROUGH THE *AIR*...
--STINGING, *SEARING* MY SKIN!
IT'S LIKE A FIREBALL *SNOWSTORM!*

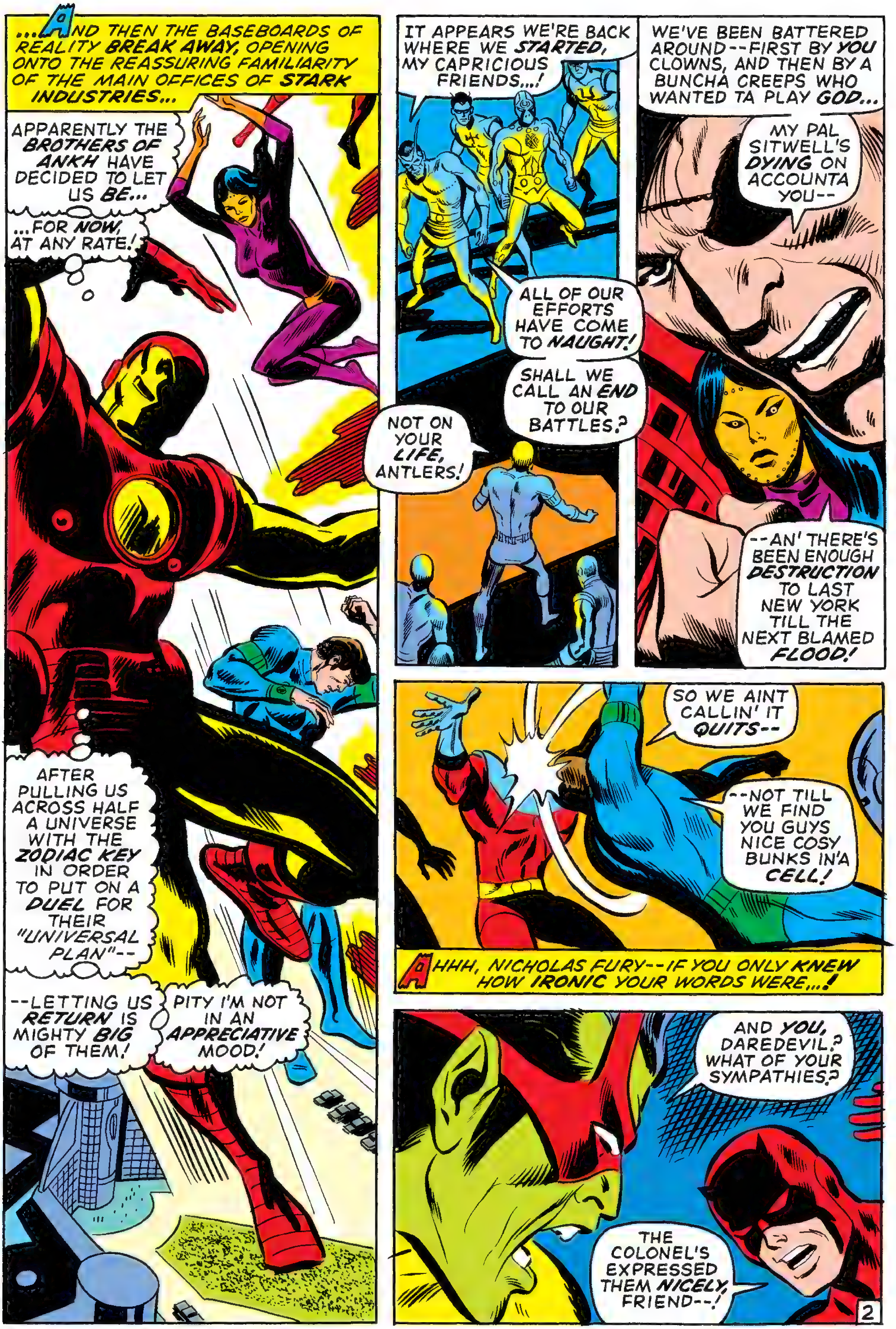

EVERYTHING'S BLURRING --MY RADAR SENSE IS *FADING*---
THERE MUST BE *BALANCE!*
OVER *ALL*, THERE MUST BE A WELL-WEIGHED *SCALE*--- BOTH *ORDER* AND *CHAOS* MUST HOLD THEIR RESPECTIVE *PLACE!*
THE KEY *THROBS* WITH NEW *LIFE!*
LET THE BATTLE *CONTINUE!*
NAY!
BY YOUR *INTERFERENCE*, YOU HAVE *DESTROYED* THE BALANCE WE SO DELICATELY SEEK TO *WEAVE!*
THERE MUST BE AN *END!*
THE RED-MASKED ONE'S *HEART* IS NOT IN THIS *CONFLICT!* THERE CAN BE NO *JUST* SETTLING OF THE *SCALES!*
THEN *WHAT* ANSWER CAN THERE BE?
THE KEY--- HAND TO ME, THE *KEY!*
SEE HOW HE *DUCKS* THE BLOWS OF THE ONE CALLED *CAPRICORN?*
WHAT *BALANCE* IN THIS?
THEY MUST BE *RETURNED* TO THEIR *OWN* CONTINUUM, AND PERHAPS, IN *THIS* WAY---

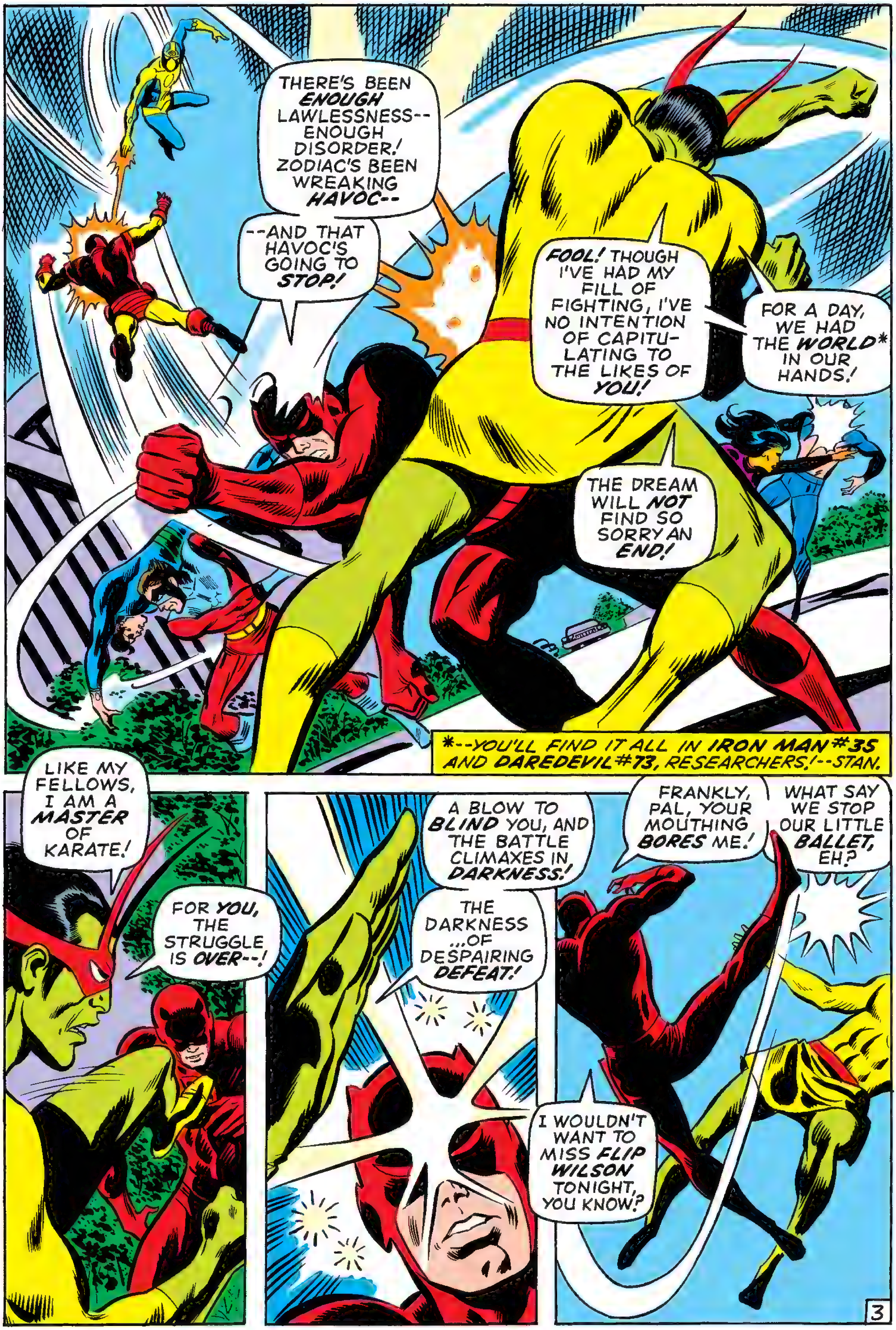

"--ANKH WILL BE SERVED!"
LIGHT AND COLOR AND DARKNESS AND COOL--ALL OF THESE THINGS SWELL FROM THE NOTHINGNESS, AND TO THE NOTHINGNESS, RETURN!

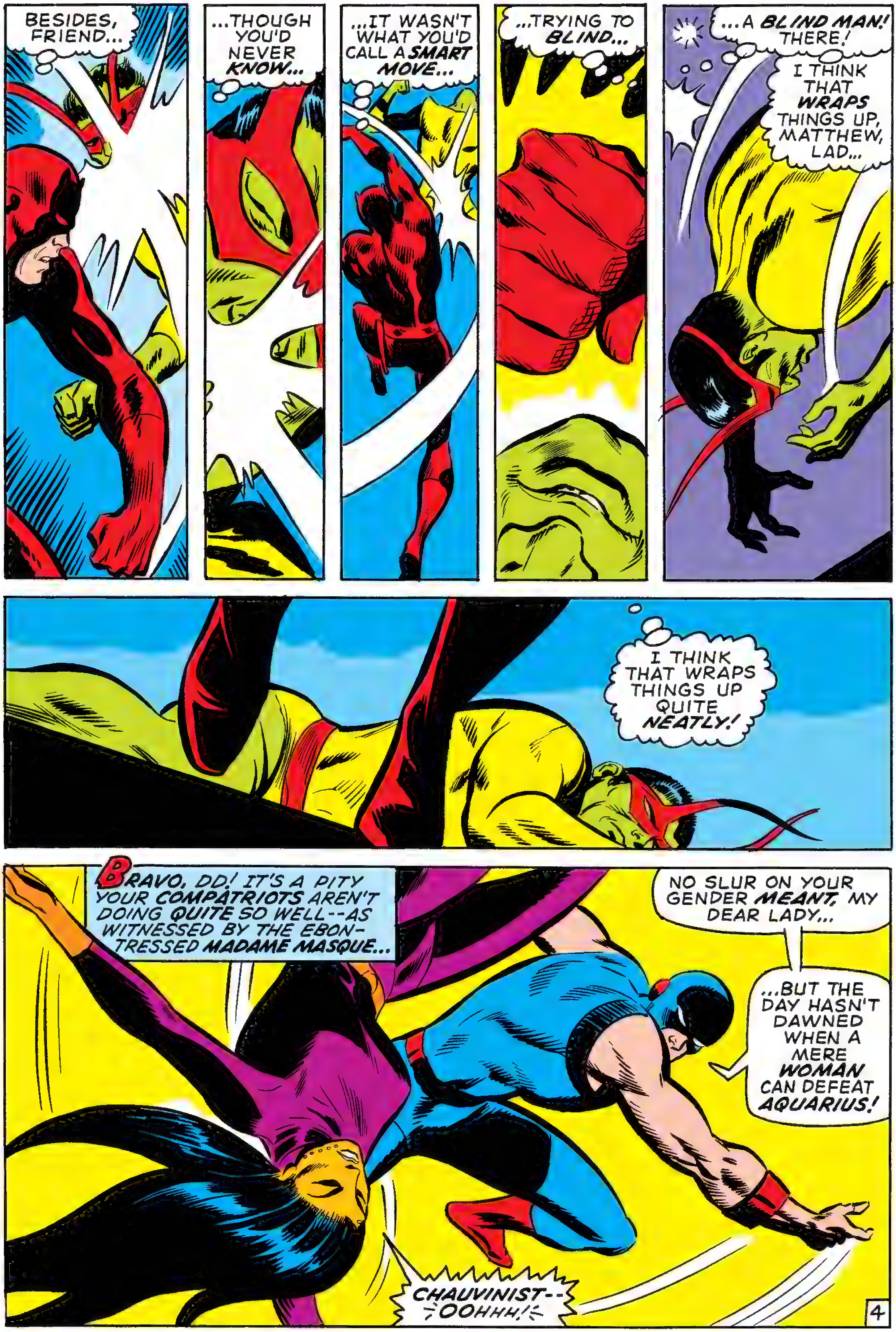

AND SO IT GOES-- BUT FOR A MOMENT, THE BATTLE PAUSES, TO BE RENEWED-- AND WITH ITS RENEWAL COMES THE AGONIZING STRIVING OF THE FORCES FOR GOOD AND EVIL!
WHO CAN SAY IF EITHER SHALL EVER TRIUMPH?
AND IF, INDEED, THAT TRIUMPH IS THE GOAL? IS IT NOT PERHAPS THE STRUGGLE THAT THEY SEEK--?
--FOR IN THAT STRUGGLE, ALL THINGS FIND THEIR PURPOSE!
THEN, SILENCE FILLS THE GREAT HALL... A SILENCE UNBROKEN SAVE FOR THE DYING MUTTERINGS OF THE GUTTERED CANDLES--!
To Be CONCLUDED in NEXT MONTH'S IRON MAN!

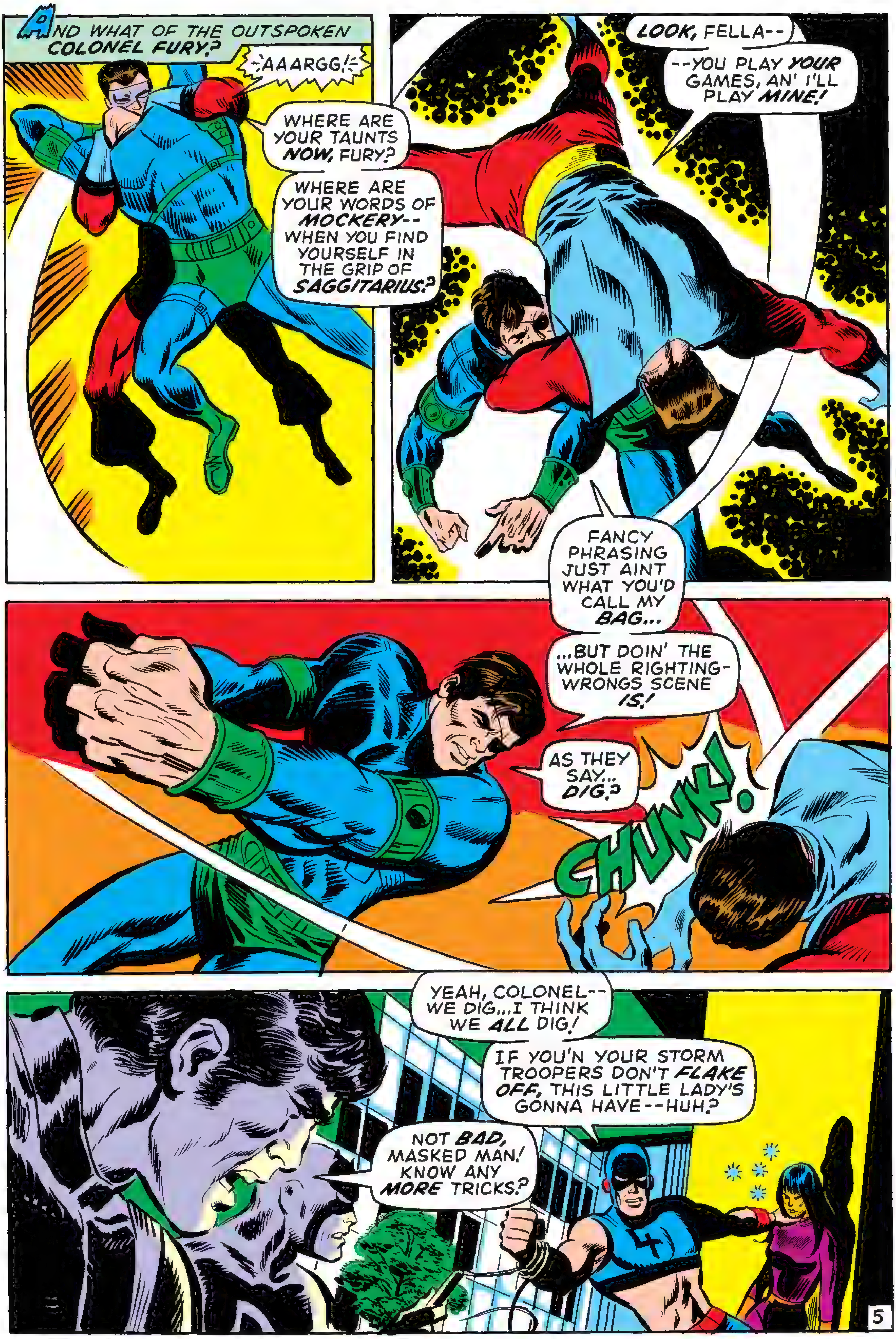
IRON MAN
15¢
CC
36
APR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YOU ARE A *DEAD MAN,* AVENGER--
--TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T MATCH UP TO-- THE RAMROD!

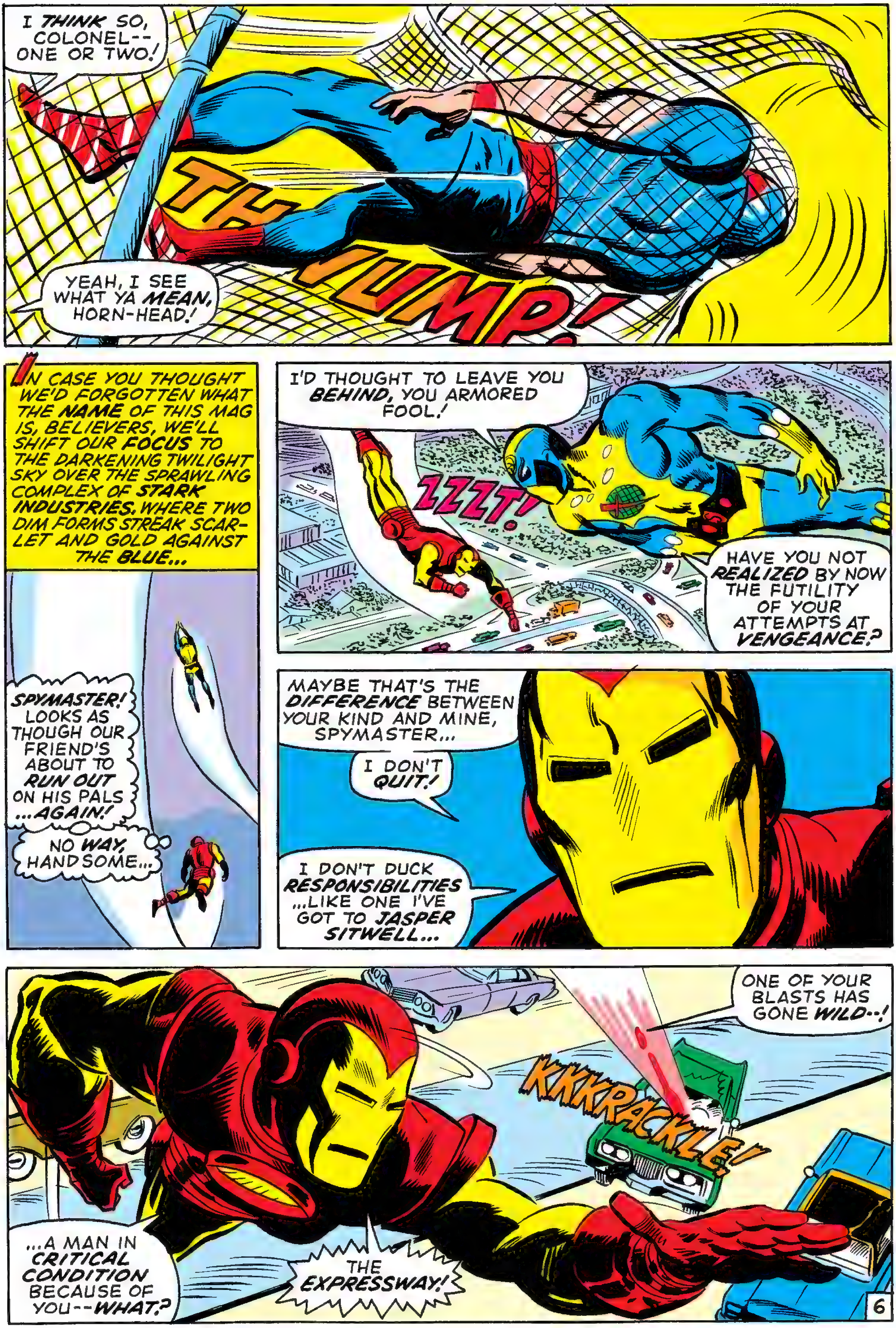

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™
"...AMONG MEN STALKS THE RAMROD!"
STAN LEE, EDITOR, PRESENTS: GERRY CONWAY, WRITER, AND DON HECK, ARTIST! ASSISTED BY: MIKE ESPOSITO, INKER AND ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER...
IN COOPERATION WITH THE FORBUSH DEMOLITION CO., INC.
--MADNESS!
BEING TOSSED LIKE PEBBLES IN AN AVALANCHE--CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE--EVERYTHING SPINNING AWAY!
STICK AROUND, PAL, AND ALL SHALL BE EXPLAINED--AS THEY SAY IN THE MELODRAMAS...
PLUMMETING THROUGH A SIDEREAL CORRIDOR IN TIME, HEROES AND AGENTS OF ZODIAC ALIKE SEEM LITTLE MORE THAN PUPPETS IN THE HANDS OF THE BROTHERHOOD...AND IF YOU'RE WONDERING JUST WHAT THAT MEANS, YOU'RE NOT ALONE, FAITHFUL ONE!
532 Z

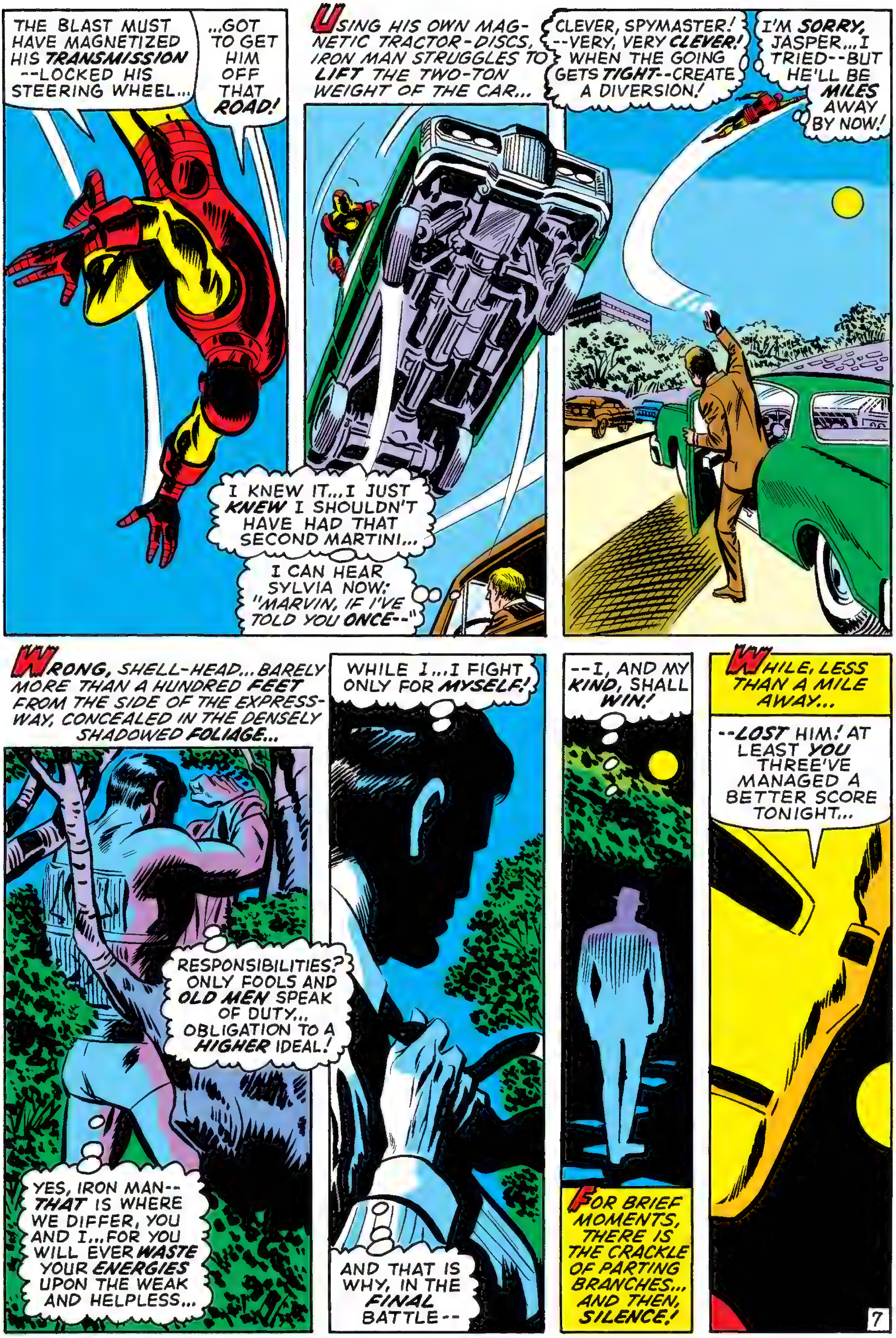

...AND THEN THE BASEBOARDS OF REALITY BREAK AWAY, OPENING ONTO THE REASSURING FAMILIARITY OF THE MAIN OFFICES OF STARK INDUSTRIES...
APPARENTLY THE BROTHERS OF ANKH HAVE DECIDED TO LET US BE...
...FOR NOW, AT ANY RATE!
AFTER PULLING US ACROSS HALF A UNIVERSE WITH THE ZODIAC KEY IN ORDER TO PUT ON A DUEL FOR THEIR "UNIVERSAL PLAN"--
--LETTING US RETURN IS MIGHTY BIG OF THEM!
PITY I'M NOT IN AN APPRECIATIVE MOOD!
IT APPEARS WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED, MY CAPRICIOUS FRIENDS...!
ALL OF OUR EFFORTS HAVE COME TO NAUGHT!
SHALL WE CALL AN END TO OUR BATTLES?
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, ANTLERS!
WE'VE BEEN BATTERED AROUND--FIRST BY YOU CLOWNS, AND THEN BY A BUNCHA CREEPS WHO WANTED TA PLAY GOD...
MY PAL SITWELL'S DYING ON ACCOUNTA YOU--
--AN' THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH DESTRUCTION TO LAST NEW YORK TILL THE NEXT BLAMED FLOOD!
SO WE AINT CALLIN' IT QUITS--
--NOT TILL WE FIND YOU GUYS NICE COSY BUNKS IN'A CELL!
AHHH, NICHOLAS FURY--IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW IRONIC YOUR WORDS WERE...!
AND YOU, DAREDEVIL? WHAT OF YOUR SYMPATHIES?
THE COLONEL'S EXPRESSED THEM NICELY, FRIEND--!

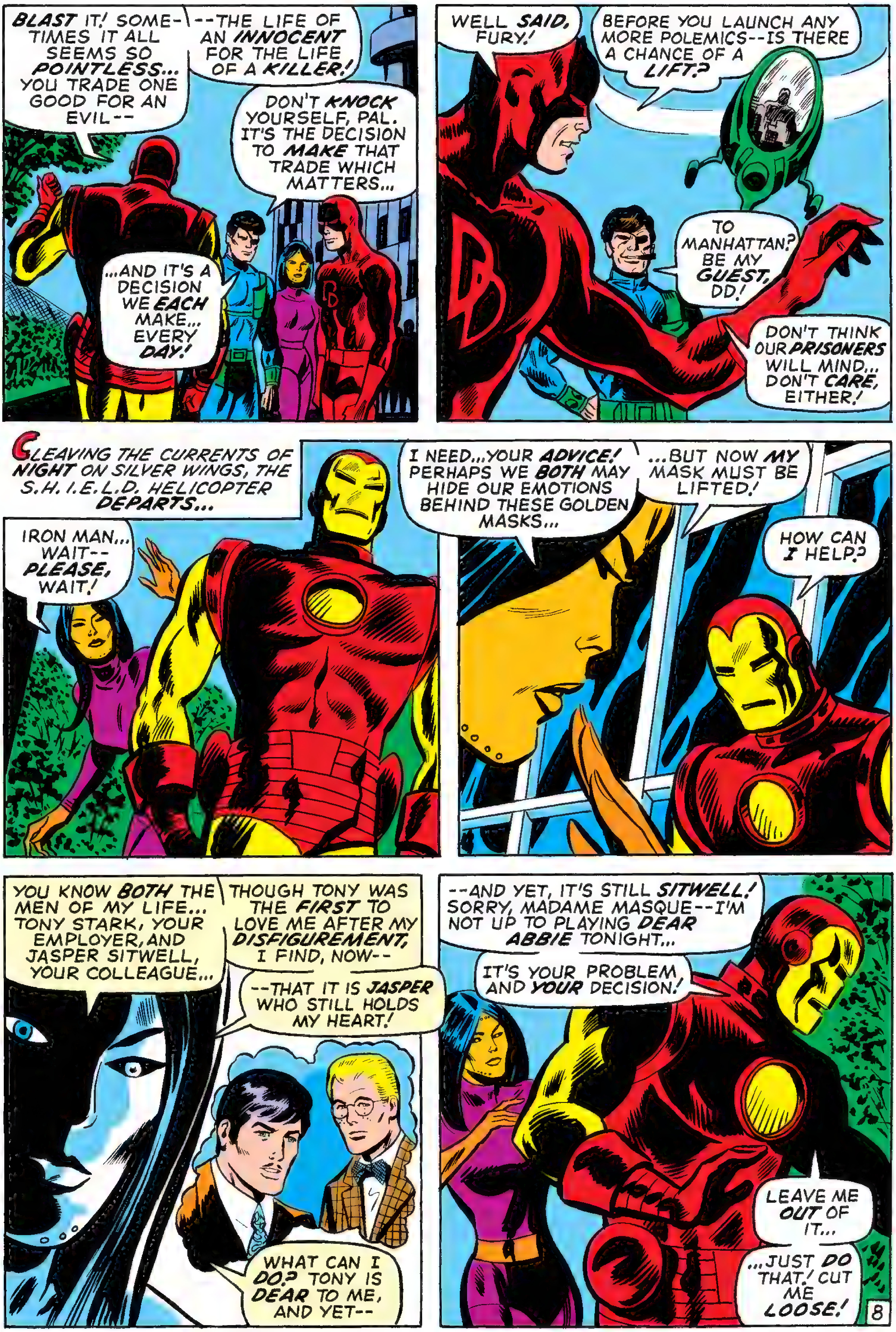

THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH LAWLESSNESS--ENOUGH DISORDER! ZODIAC'S BEEN WREAKING HAVOC--
--AND THAT HAVOC'S GOING TO STOP!
FOOL! THOUGH I'VE HAD MY FILL OF FIGHTING, I'VE NO INTENTION OF CAPITULATING TO THE LIKES OF YOU!
FOR A DAY, WE HAD THE WORLD* IN OUR HANDS!
THE DREAM WILL NOT FIND SO SORRY AN END!
*--YOU'LL FIND IT ALL IN IRON MAN #35 AND DAREDEVIL #73, RESEARCHERS!--STAN.
LIKE MY FELLOWS, I AM A MASTER OF KARATE!
FOR YOU, THE STRUGGLE IS OVER--!
A BLOW TO BLIND YOU, AND THE BATTLE CLIMAXES IN DARKNESS!
THE DARKNESS ...OF DESPAIRING DEFEAT!
I WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS FLIP WILSON TONIGHT, YOU KNOW?
FRANKLY, PAL, YOUR MOUTHING BORES ME!
WHAT SAY WE STOP OUR LITTLE BALLET, EH?


BESIDES, FRIEND...
...THOUGH YOU'D NEVER KNOW...
...IT WASN'T WHAT YOU'D CALL A SMART MOVE...
...TRYING TO BLIND...
...A BLIND MAN! THERE!
I THINK THAT WRAPS THINGS UP, MATTHEW, LAD...
I THINK THAT WRAPS THINGS UP QUITE NEATLY!
BRAVO, DD! IT'S A PITY YOUR COMPATRIOTS AREN'T DOING QUITE SO WELL--AS WITNESSED BY THE EBON-TRESSED MADAME MASQUE...
NO SLUR ON YOUR GENDER MEANT, MY DEAR LADY...
...BUT THE DAY HASN'T DAWNED WHEN A MERE WOMAN CAN DEFEAT AQUARIUS!
CHAUVINIST-- OOHHH!


AND WHAT OF THE OUTSPOKEN COLONEL FURY?
AAARGG!
WHERE ARE YOUR TAUNTS NOW, FURY?
WHERE ARE YOUR WORDS OF MOCKERY--WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE GRIP OF SAGGITARIUS?
LOOK, FELLA--
--YOU PLAY YOUR GAMES, AN' I'LL PLAY MINE!
FANCY PHRASING JUST AINT WHAT YOU'D CALL MY BAG...
...BUT DOIN' THE WHOLE RIGHTING-WRONGS SCENE IS!
AS THEY SAY... DIG?
CHUNK!
YEAH, COLONEL--WE DIG...I THINK WE ALL DIG!
IF YOU'N YOUR STORM TROOPERS DON'T FLAKE OFF, THIS LITTLE LADY'S GONNA HAVE--HUH?
NOT BAD, MASKED MAN! KNOW ANY MORE TRICKS?

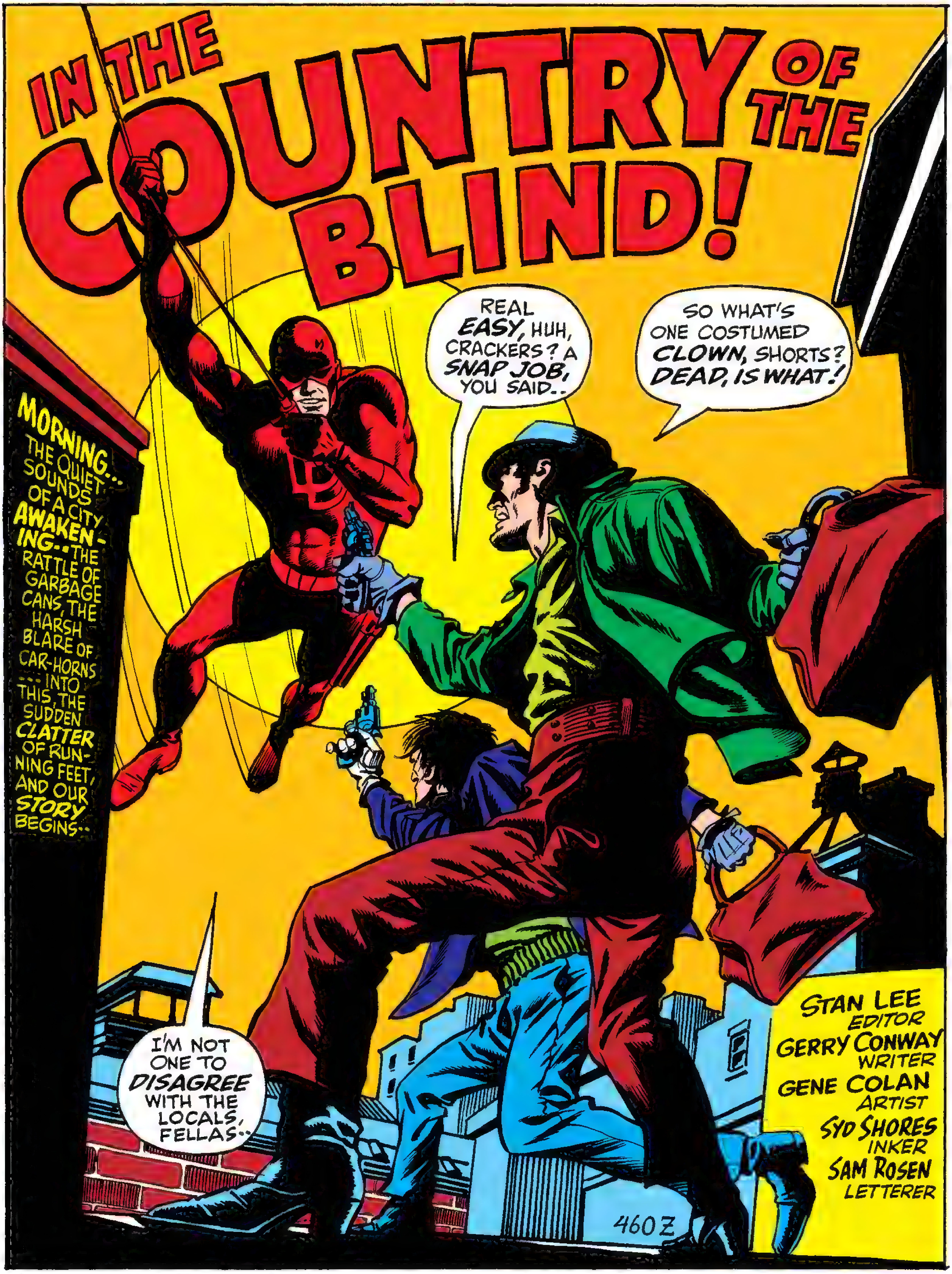

I THINK SO, COLONEL-- ONE OR TWO!
THUMP!
YEAH, I SEE WHAT YA MEAN, HORN-HEAD!
IN CASE YOU THOUGHT WE'D FORGOTTEN WHAT THE NAME OF THIS MAG IS, BELIEVERS, WE'LL SHIFT OUR FOCUS TO THE DARKENING TWILIGHT SKY OVER THE SPRAWLING COMPLEX OF STARK INDUSTRIES, WHERE TWO DIM FORMS STREAK SCARLET AND GOLD AGAINST THE BLUE...
SPYMASTER! LOOKS AS THOUGH OUR FRIEND'S ABOUT TO RUN OUT ON HIS PALS ...AGAIN!
NO WAY, HANDSOME...
I'D THOUGHT TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND, YOU ARMORED FOOL!
ZZZT!
HAVE YOU NOT REALIZED BY NOW THE FUTILITY OF YOUR ATTEMPTS AT VENGEANCE?
MAYBE THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR KIND AND MINE, SPYMASTER...
I DON'T QUIT!
I DON'T DUCK RESPONSIBILITIES ...LIKE ONE I'VE GOT TO JASPER SITWELL...
ONE OF YOUR BLASTS HAS GONE WILD--!
KKKRACKLE!
...A MAN IN CRITICAL CONDITION BECAUSE OF YOU--WHAT?
THE EXPRESSWAY!

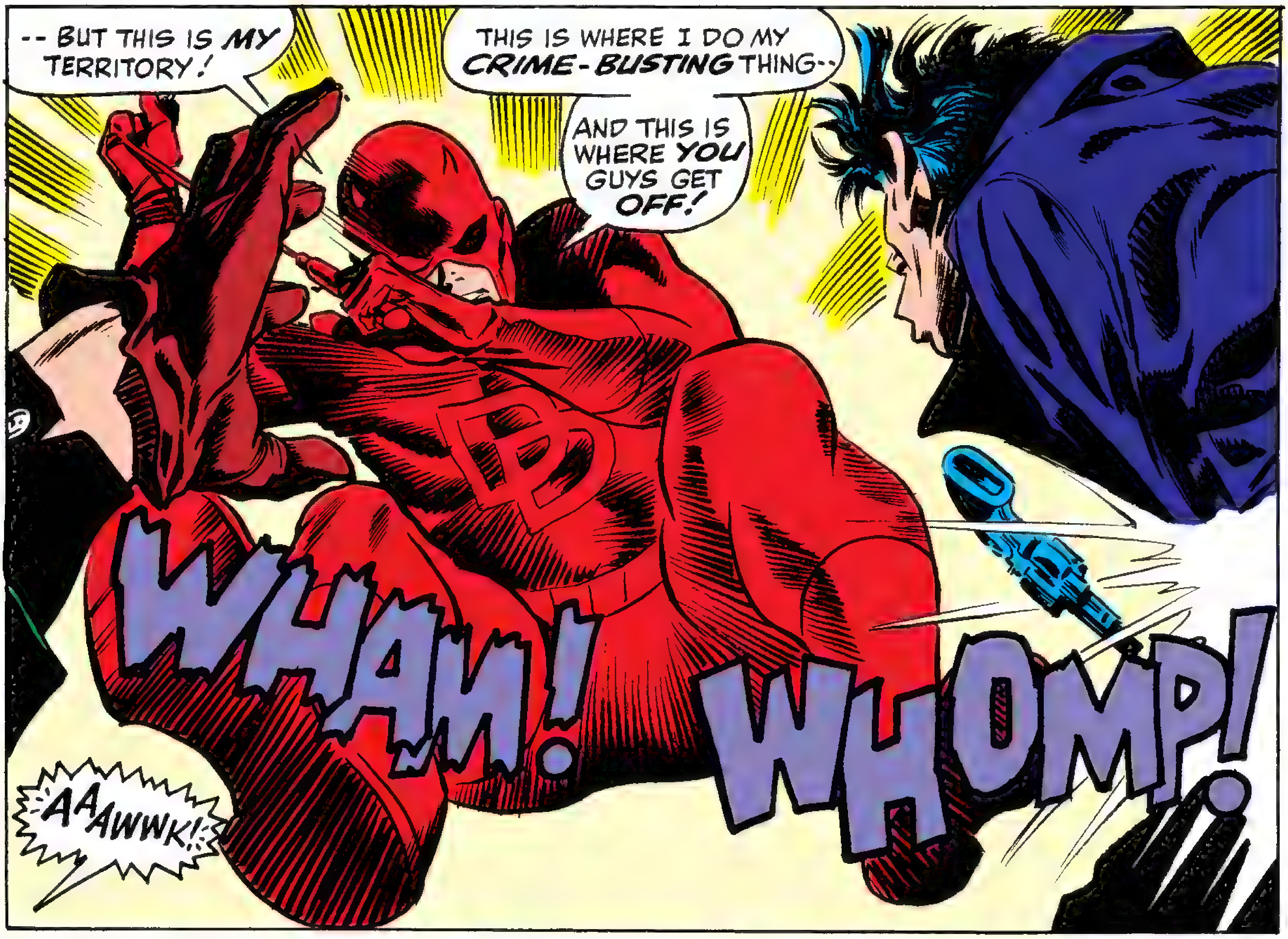

THE BLAST MUST HAVE MAGNETIZED HIS TRANSMISSION --LOCKED HIS STEERING WHEEL...
...GOT TO GET HIM OFF THAT ROAD!
USING HIS OWN MAGNETIC TRACTOR-DISCS, IRON MAN STRUGGLES TO LIFT THE TWO-TON WEIGHT OF THE CAR...
I KNEW IT...I JUST KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD THAT SECOND MARTINI...
I CAN HEAR SYLVIA NOW: "MARVIN, IF I'VE TOLD YOU ONCE--"
CLEVER, SPYMASTER! --VERY, VERY CLEVER! WHEN THE GOING GETS TIGHT--CREATE A DIVERSION!
I'M SORRY, JASPER...I TRIED--BUT HE'LL BE MILES AWAY BY NOW!
WRONG, SHELL-HEAD...BARELY MORE THAN A HUNDRED FEET FROM THE SIDE OF THE EXPRESSWAY, CONCEALED IN THE DENSELY SHADOWED FOLIAGE...
RESPONSIBILITIES? ONLY FOOLS AND OLD MEN SPEAK OF DUTY... OBLIGATION TO A HIGHER IDEAL!
YES, IRON MAN-- THAT IS WHERE WE DIFFER, YOU AND I...FOR YOU WILL EVER WASTE YOUR ENERGIES UPON THE WEAK AND HELPLESS...
WHILE I...I FIGHT ONLY FOR MYSELF!
AND THAT IS WHY, IN THE FINAL BATTLE--
--I, AND MY KIND, SHALL WIN!
FOR BRIEF MOMENTS, THERE IS THE CRACKLE OF PARTING BRANCHES... AND THEN, SILENCE!
WHILE, LESS THAN A MILE AWAY...
--LOST HIM! AT LEAST YOU THREE'VE MANAGED A BETTER SCORE TONIGHT...

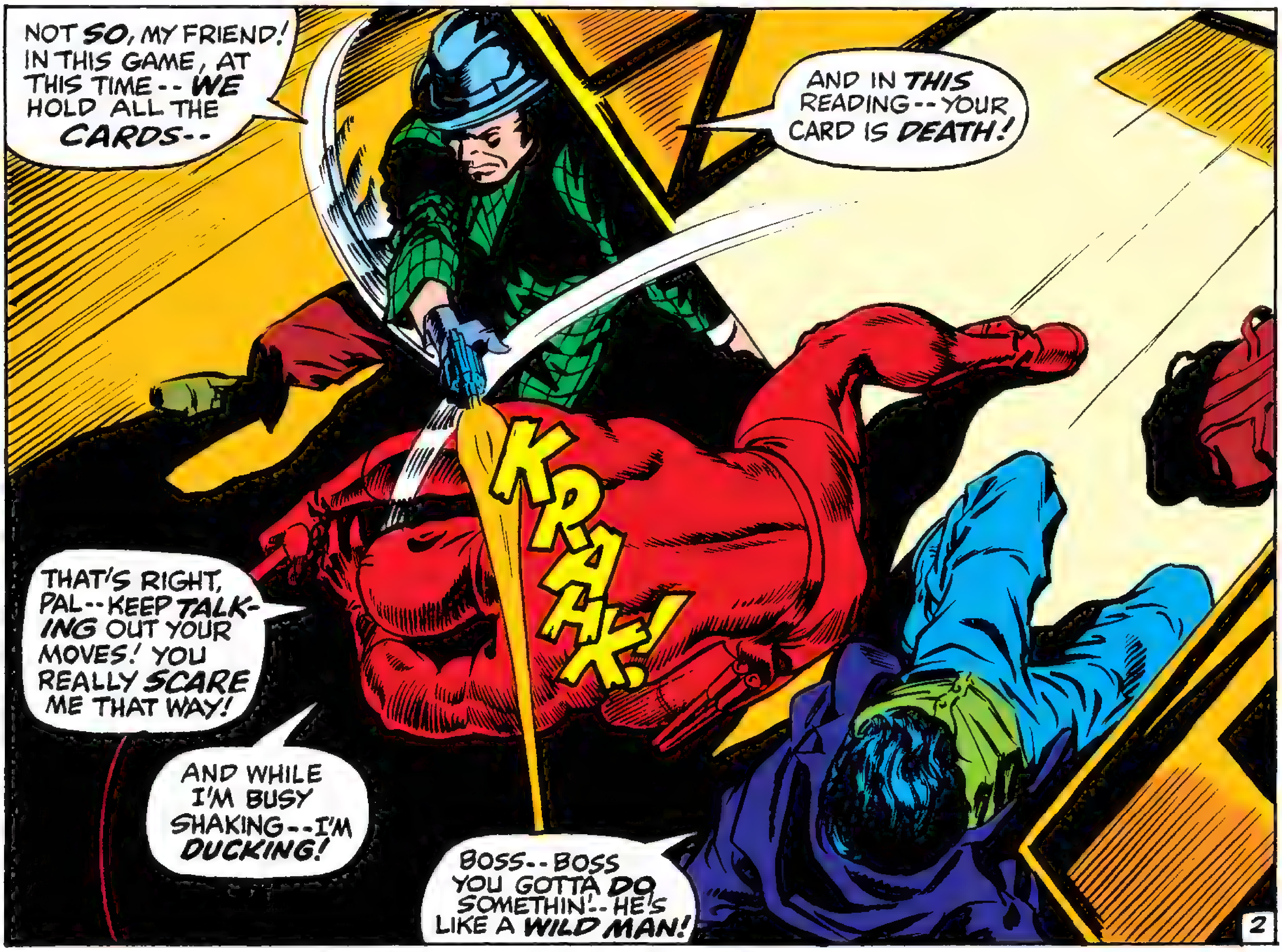

BLAST IT! SOMETIMES IT ALL SEEMS SO POINTLESS... YOU TRADE ONE GOOD FOR AN EVIL--
--THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT FOR THE LIFE OF A KILLER!
DON'T KNOCK YOURSELF, PAL. IT'S THE DECISION TO MAKE THAT TRADE WHICH MATTERS...
...AND IT'S A DECISION WE EACH MAKE... EVERY DAY!
WELL SAID, FURY!
BEFORE YOU LAUNCH ANY MORE POLEMICS--IS THERE A CHANCE OF A LIFT?
TO MANHATTAN? BE MY GUEST, DD!
DON'T THINK OUR PRISONERS WILL MIND... DON'T CARE, EITHER!
LEAVING THE CURRENTS OF NIGHT ON SILVER WINGS, THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICOPTER DEPARTS...
IRON MAN... WAIT-- PLEASE, WAIT!
I NEED... YOUR ADVICE! PERHAPS WE BOTH MAY HIDE OUR EMOTIONS BEHIND THESE GOLDEN MASKS...
...BUT NOW MY MASK MUST BE LIFTED!
HOW CAN I HELP?
YOU KNOW BOTH THE MEN OF MY LIFE... TONY STARK, YOUR EMPLOYER, AND JASPER SITWELL, YOUR COLLEAGUE...
THOUGH TONY WAS THE FIRST TO LOVE ME AFTER MY DISFIGUREMENT, I FIND, NOW--
--THAT IT IS JASPER WHO STILL HOLDS MY HEART!
WHAT CAN I DO? TONY IS DEAR TO ME, AND YET--
--AND YET, IT'S STILL SITWELL! SORRY, MADAME MASQUE--I'M NOT UP TO PLAYING DEAR ABBIE TONIGHT...
IT'S YOUR PROBLEM AND YOUR DECISION!
LEAVE ME OUT OF IT...
...JUST DO THAT! CUT ME LOOSE!

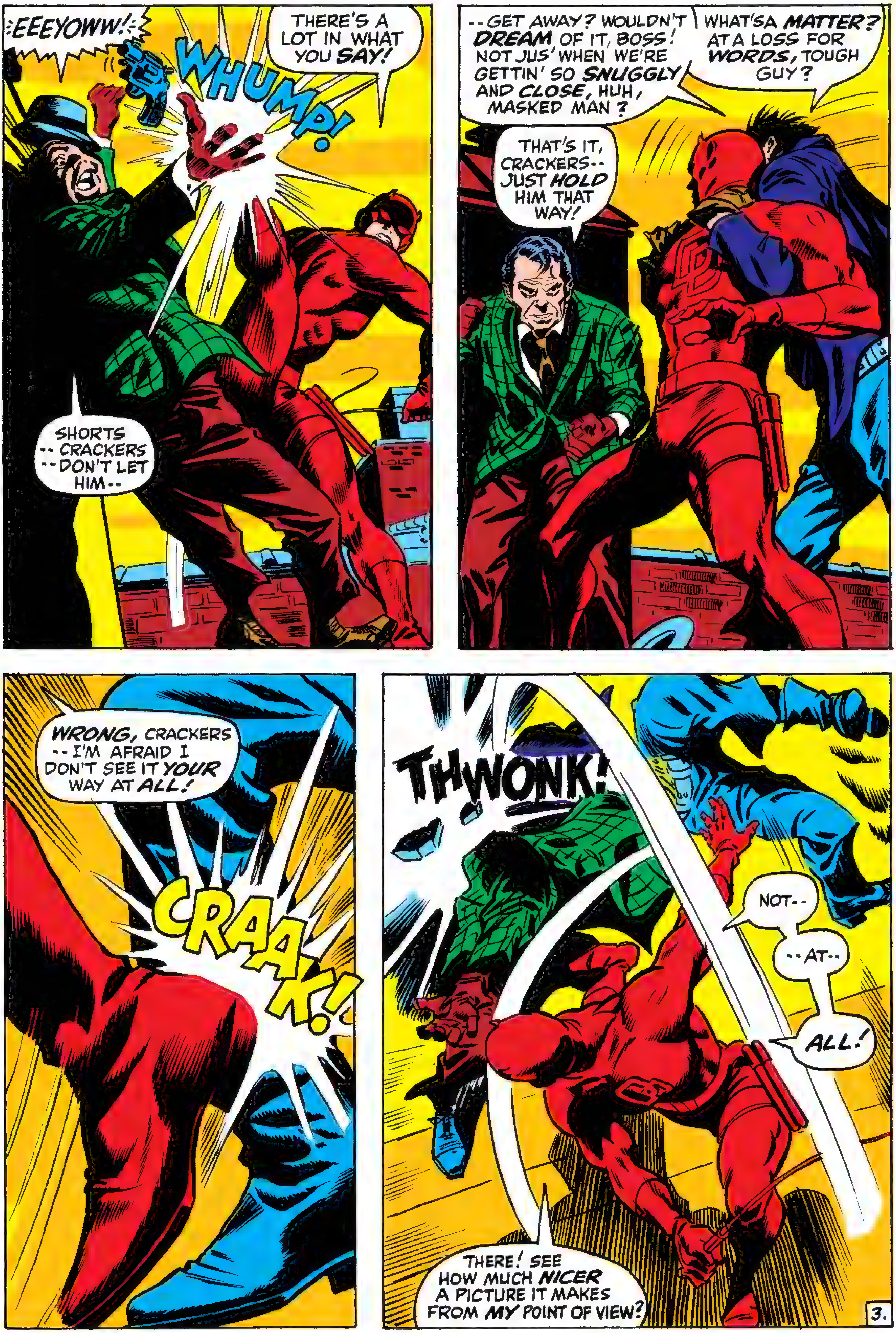
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
74 MAR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
FOGGY-- YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
THE WHOLE CITY'S GONE BLIND!
O'S
CAMP
69 SHORE RO
WHAT DID YOU SAY? WHERE ARE YOU, MASKED MAN?
I--I CAN'T SEE!!

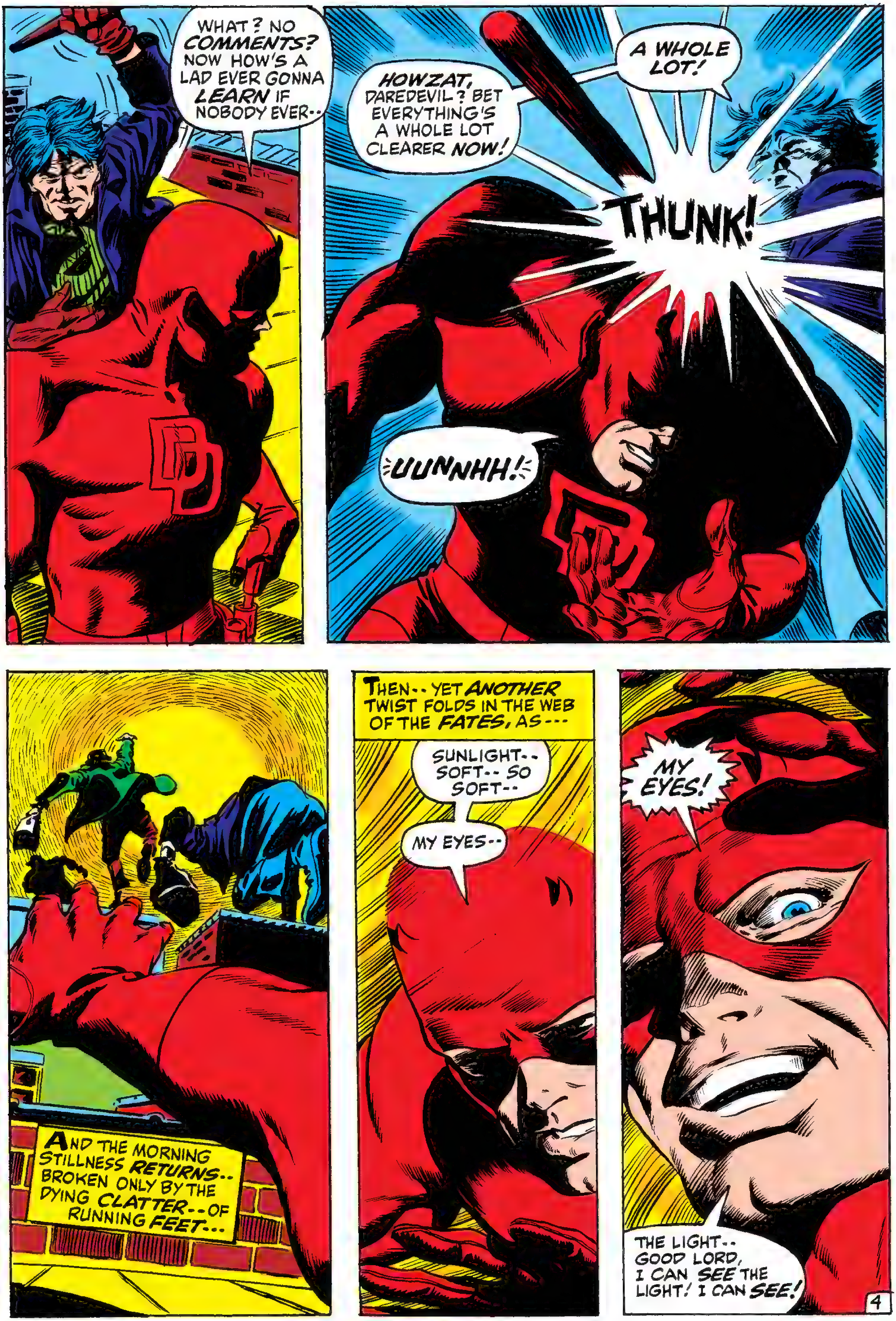
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

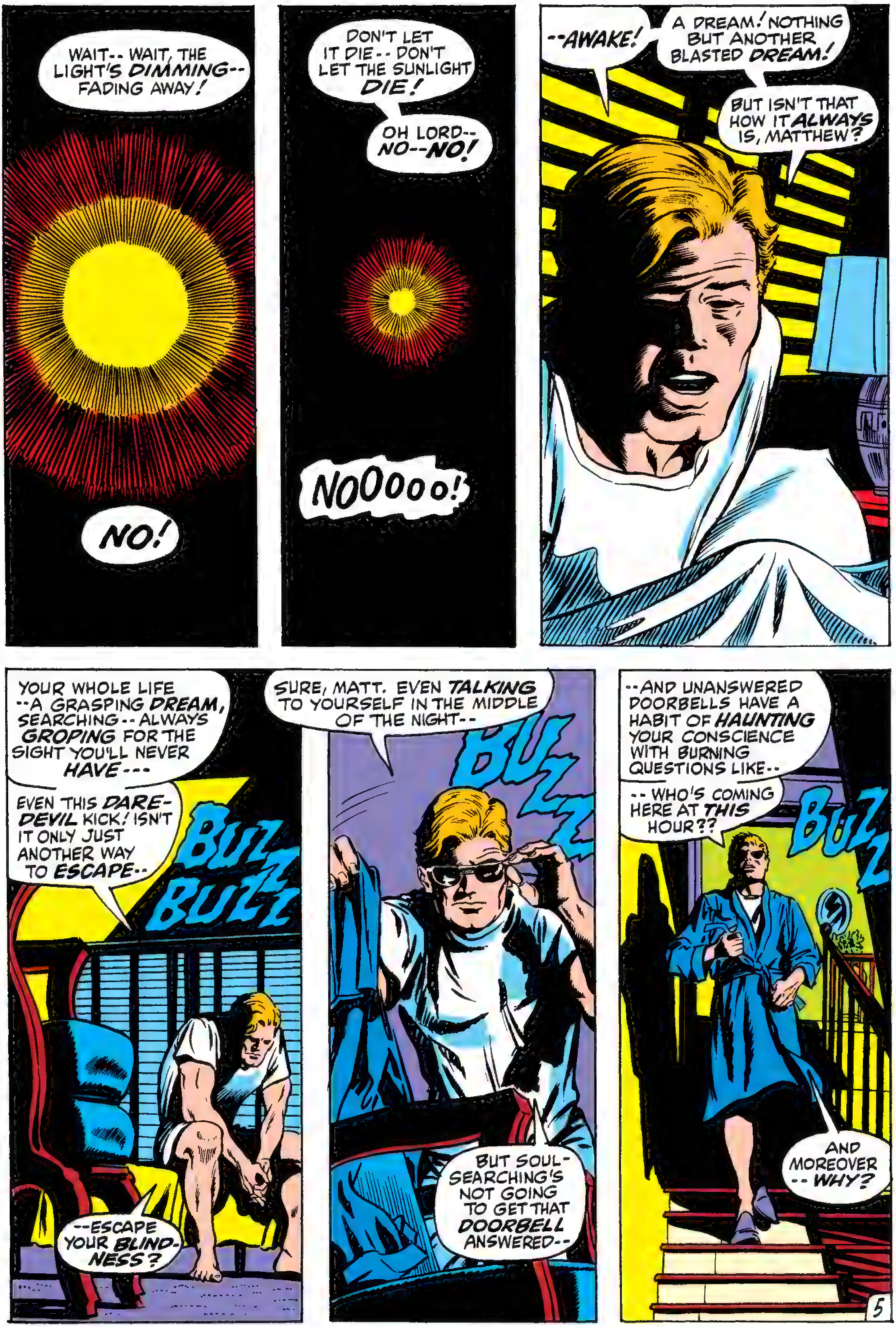

IN THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND!
MORNING... THE QUIET SOUNDS OF A CITY AWAKENING.. THE RATTLE OF GARBAGE CANS, THE HARSH BLARE OF CAR-HORNS ... INTO THIS, THE SUDDEN CLATTER OF RUNNING FEET, AND OUR STORY BEGINS..
REAL *EASY*, HUH, CRACKERS? A *SNAP JOB*, YOU SAID..
SO WHAT'S ONE COSTUMED *CLOWN*, SHORTS? *DEAD, IS WHAT!*
I'M NOT ONE TO *DISAGREE* WITH THE LOCALS, FELLAS..
STAN LEE EDITOR
GERRY CONWAY WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES INKER
SAM ROSEN LETTERER
460 Z

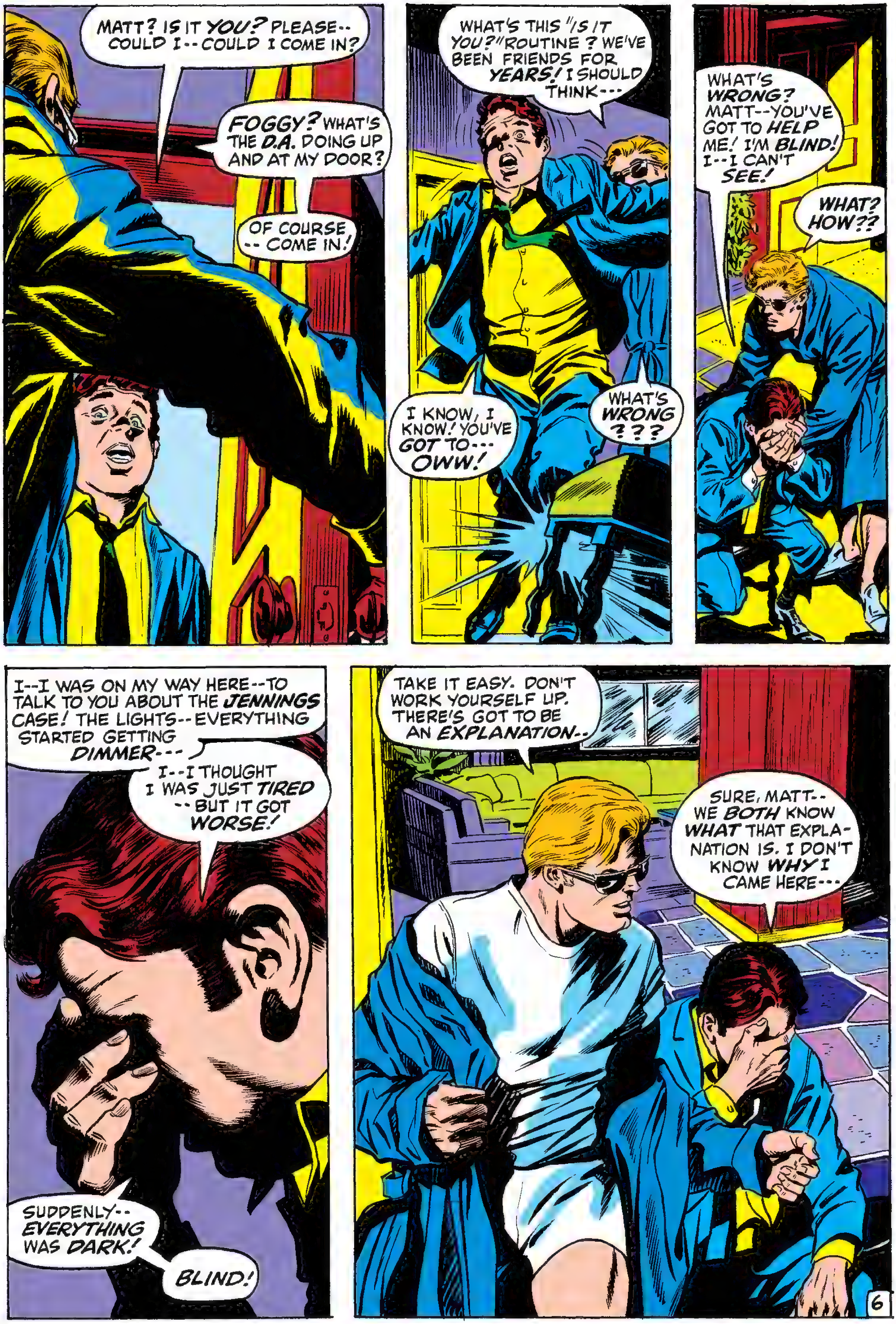

-- BUT THIS IS MY TERRITORY!
THIS IS WHERE I DO MY CRIME-BUSTING THING--
AND THIS IS WHERE YOU GUYS GET OFF!
WHAM!
WHOMP!
AAAAWWK!!

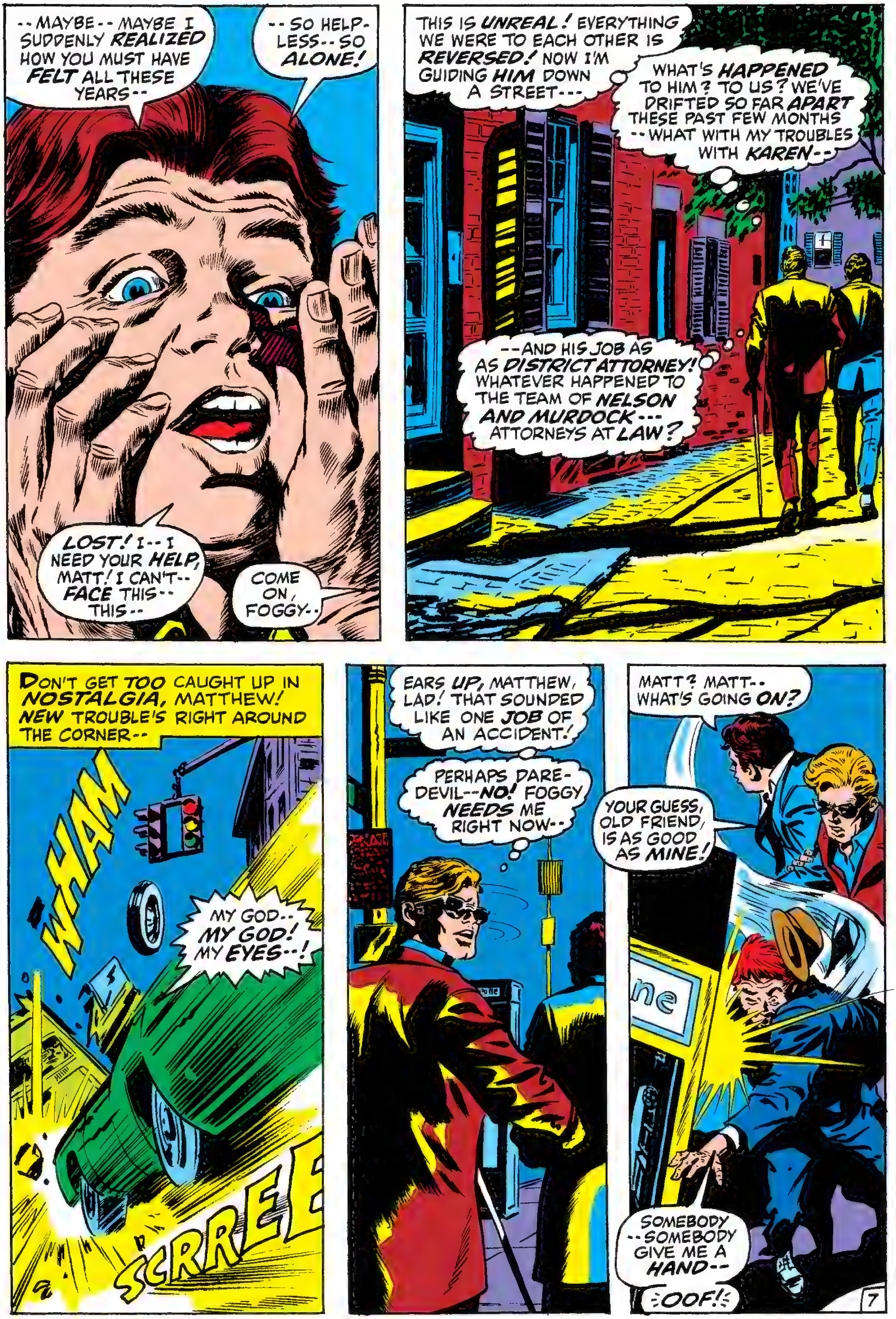

NOT SO, MY FRIEND! IN THIS GAME, AT THIS TIME -- WE HOLD ALL THE CARDS--
AND IN THIS READING -- YOUR CARD IS DEATH!
KRAAK!
THAT'S RIGHT, PAL--KEEP TALKING OUT YOUR MOVES! YOU REALLY SCARE ME THAT WAY!
AND WHILE I'M BUSY SHAKING--I'M DUCKING!
BOSS--BOSS YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'--HE'S LIKE A WILD MAN!
2

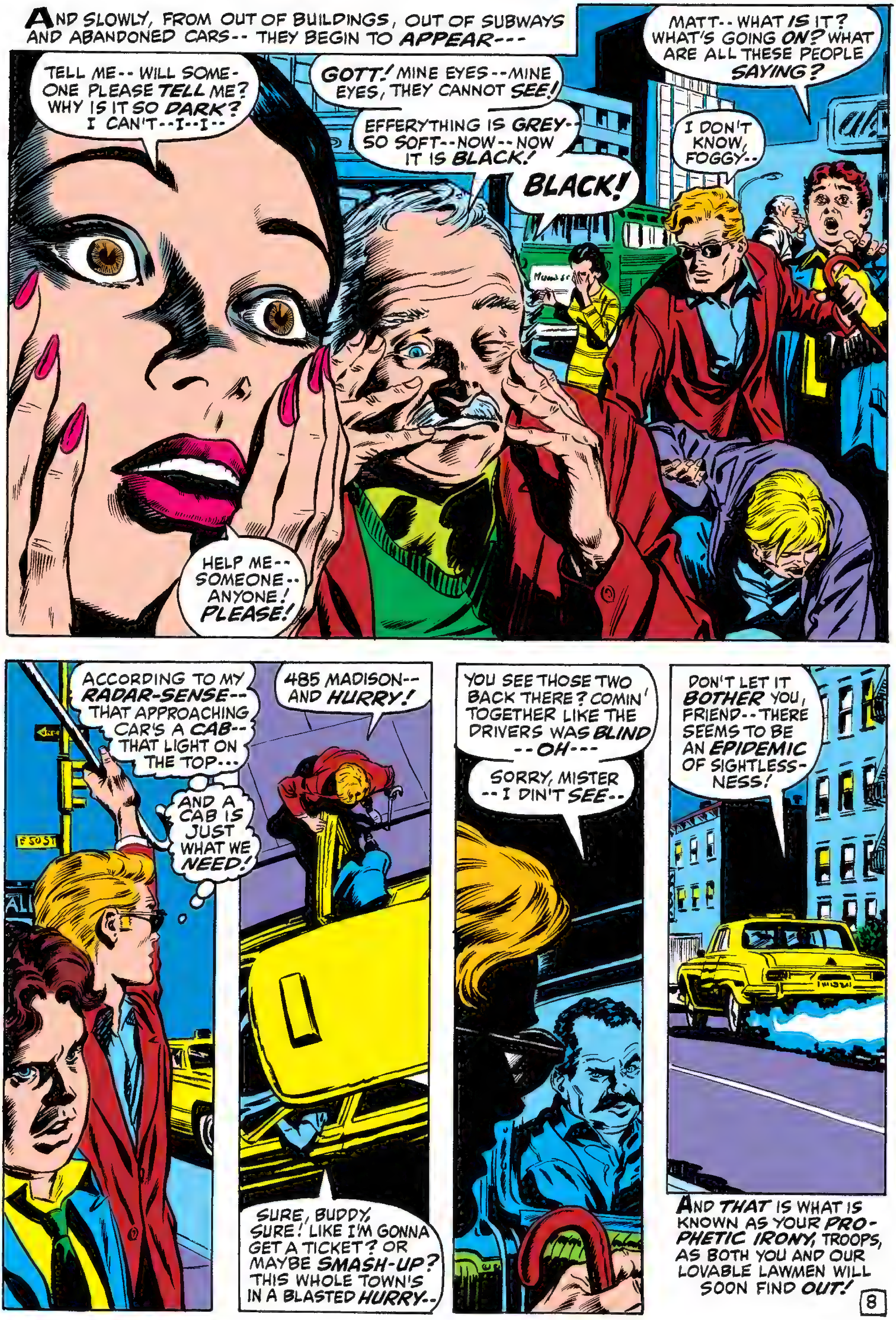

EEEYOWW!
WHUMP!
THERE'S A LOT IN WHAT YOU SAY!
SHORTS -- CRACKERS -- DON'T LET HIM --
-- GET AWAY? WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT, BOSS! NOT JUS' WHEN WE'RE GETTIN' SO SNUGGLY AND CLOSE, HUH, MASKED MAN?
WHAT'SA MATTER? AT A LOSS FOR WORDS, TOUGH GUY?
THAT'S IT, CRACKERS -- JUST HOLD HIM THAT WAY!
WRONG, CRACKERS -- I'M AFRAID I DON'T SEE IT YOUR WAY AT ALL!
CRAAK!
THWONK!
NOT --
-- AT --
ALL!
THERE! SEE HOW MUCH NICER A PICTURE IT MAKES FROM MY POINT OF VIEW?

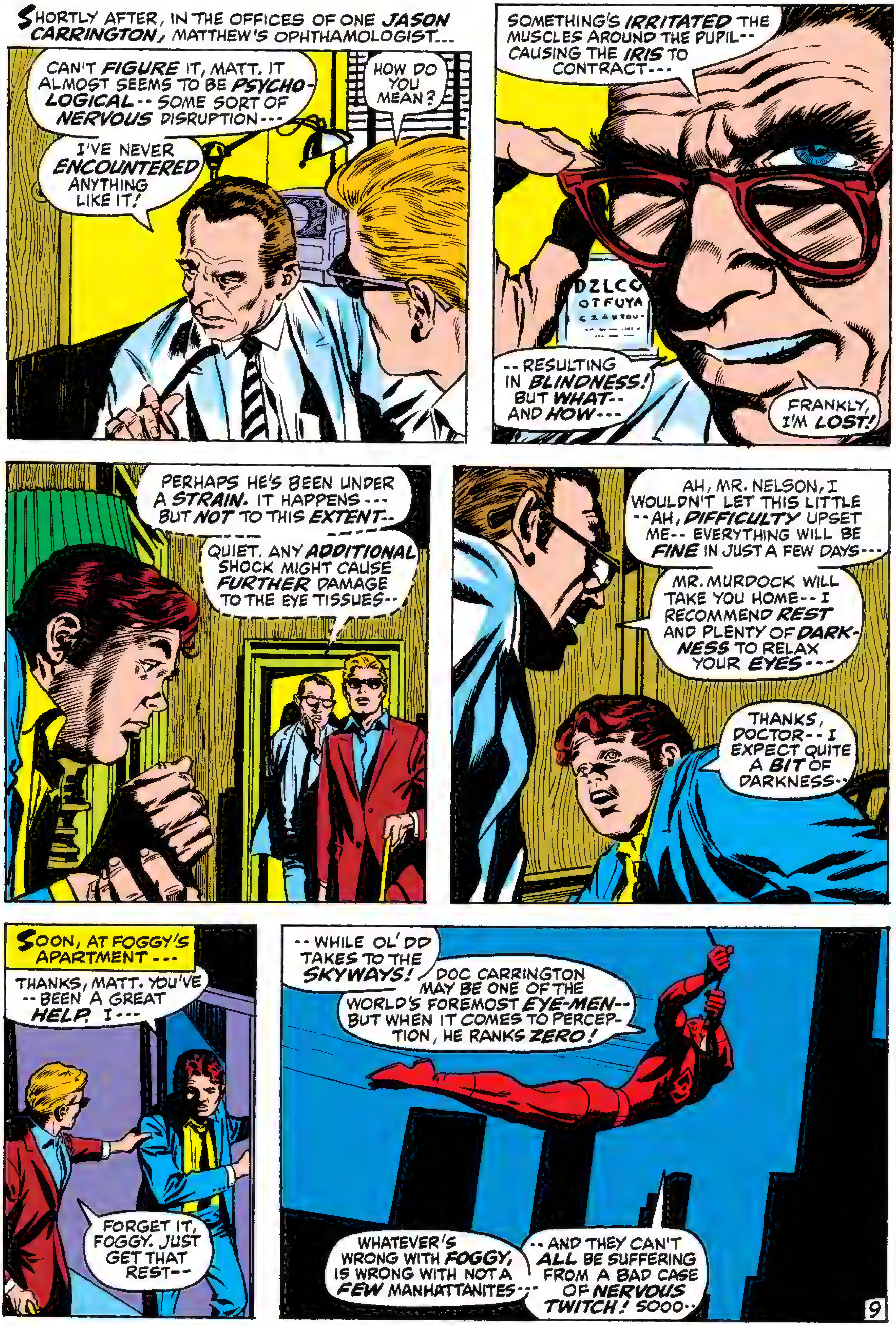

WHAT? NO *COMMENTS?* NOW HOW'S A LAD EVER GONNA *LEARN* IF NOBODY EVER--
HOWZAT, DAREDEVIL? BET EVERYTHING'S A WHOLE LOT CLEARER *NOW!*
A WHOLE LOT!
THUNK!
UUNNHH!
AND THE MORNING STILLNESS *RETURNS*.. BROKEN ONLY BY THE DYING *CLATTER*--OF RUNNING *FEET*...
THEN.. YET *ANOTHER* TWIST FOLDS IN THE WEB OF THE *FATES*, AS---
SUNLIGHT-- SOFT-- SO SOFT--
MY EYES--
MY EYES!
THE LIGHT-- GOOD LORD, I CAN *SEE* THE LIGHT! I CAN *SEE!*

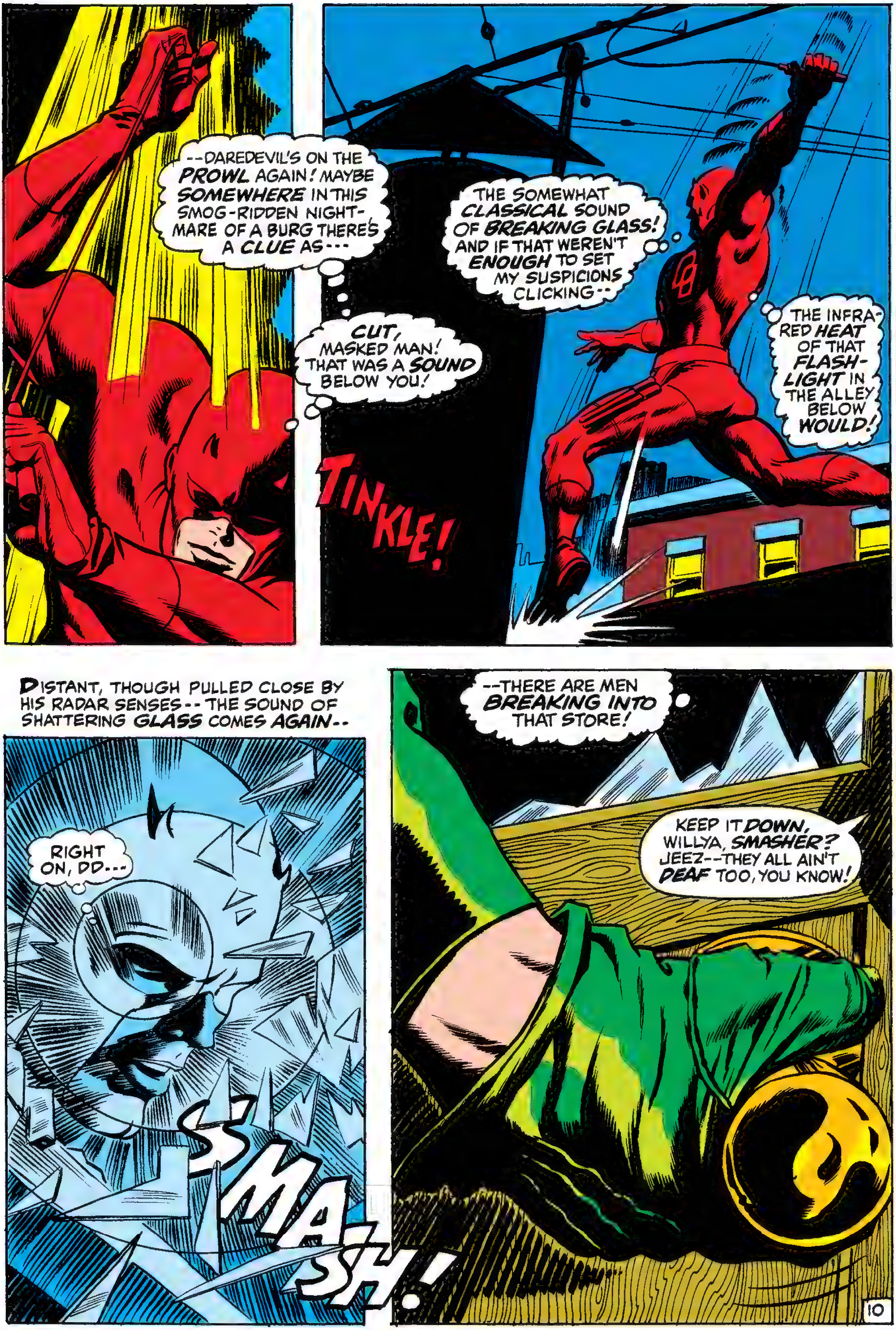

WAIT-- WAIT, THE LIGHT'S DIMMING-- FADING AWAY!
NO!
DON'T LET IT DIE-- DON'T LET THE SUNLIGHT DIE!
OH LORD-- NO--NO!
NOOooo!
--AWAKE!
A DREAM! NOTHING BUT ANOTHER BLASTED DREAM!
BUT ISN'T THAT HOW IT ALWAYS IS, MATTHEW?
YOUR WHOLE LIFE --A GRASPING DREAM, SEARCHING-- ALWAYS GROPING FOR THE SIGHT YOU'LL NEVER HAVE---
EVEN THIS DAREDEVIL KICK! ISN'T IT ONLY JUST ANOTHER WAY TO ESCAPE--
BUZZ BUZZ
--ESCAPE YOUR BLINDNESS?
SURE, MATT. EVEN TALKING TO YOURSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT--
BUZZ
BUT SOUL-SEARCHING'S NOT GOING TO GET THAT DOORBELL ANSWERED--
--AND UNANSWERED DOORBELLS HAVE A HABIT OF HAUNTING YOUR CONSCIENCE WITH BURNING QUESTIONS LIKE--
--WHO'S COMING HERE AT THIS HOUR??
BUZZ
AND MOREOVER --WHY?

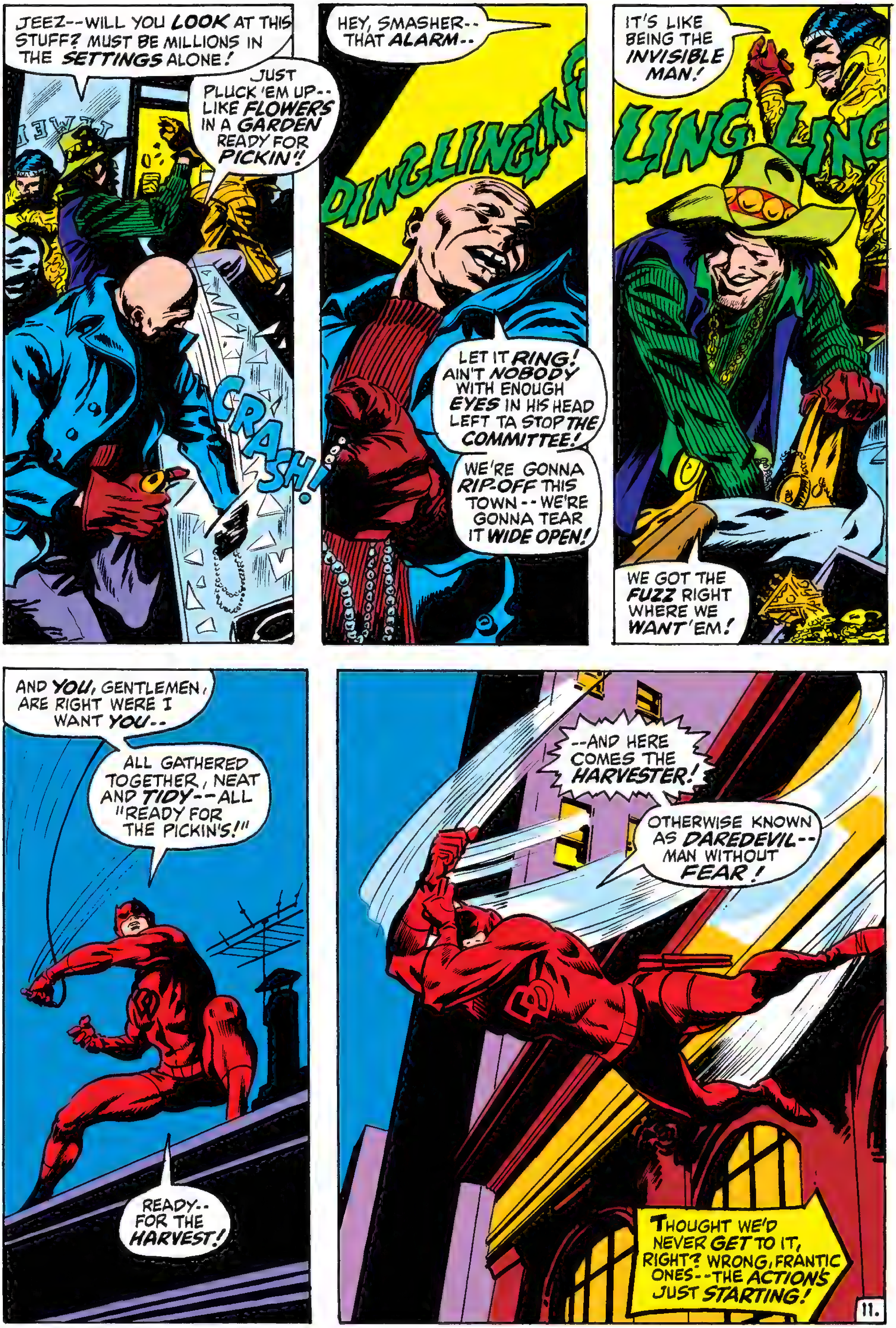

MATT? IS IT *YOU?* PLEASE-- COULD I--COULD I COME IN?
FOGGY? WHAT'S THE *D.A.* DOING UP AND AT MY DOOR?
OF COURSE --COME IN!
WHAT'S THIS "*IS IT YOU?*" ROUTINE? WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR *YEARS!* I SHOULD THINK---
I KNOW, I KNOW! YOU'VE *GOT* TO--- *OWW!*
WHAT'S *WRONG* ???
WHAT'S *WRONG?* MATT--YOU'VE GOT TO *HELP* ME! I'M *BLIND!* I--I CAN'T *SEE!*
WHAT? HOW??
I--I WAS ON MY WAY HERE--TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE *JENNINGS* CASE! THE LIGHTS--EVERYTHING STARTED GETTING *DIMMER---*
I--I THOUGHT I WAS JUST *TIRED* --BUT IT GOT *WORSE!*
SUDDENLY-- *EVERYTHING* WAS *DARK!*
BLIND!
TAKE IT EASY. DON'T WORK YOURSELF UP. THERE'S GOT TO BE AN *EXPLANATION..*
SURE, MATT-- WE *BOTH* KNOW *WHAT* THAT EXPLANATION IS. I DON'T KNOW *WHY* I CAME HERE---


--MAYBE--MAYBE I SUDDENLY REALIZED HOW YOU MUST HAVE FELT ALL THESE YEARS--
--SO HELPLESS--SO ALONE!
LOST! I--I NEED YOUR HELP, MATT! I CAN'T--FACE THIS--THIS--
COME ON, FOGGY--
THIS IS UNREAL! EVERYTHING WE WERE TO EACH OTHER IS REVERSED! NOW I'M GUIDING HIM DOWN A STREET---
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM? TO US? WE'VE DRIFTED SO FAR APART THESE PAST FEW MONTHS--WHAT WITH MY TROUBLES WITH KAREN--
--AND HIS JOB AS AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY! WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TEAM OF NELSON AND MURDOCK---ATTORNEYS AT LAW?
DON'T GET TOO CAUGHT UP IN NOSTALGIA, MATTHEW! NEW TROUBLE'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER--
WHAM
MY GOD--MY GOD! MY EYES--!
SCRREE
EARS UP, MATTHEW, LAD! THAT SOUNDED LIKE ONE JOB OF AN ACCIDENT!
PERHAPS DAREDEVIL--NO! FOGGY NEEDS ME RIGHT NOW--
MATT? MATT--WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOUR GUESS, OLD FRIEND, IS AS GOOD AS MINE!
ne
SOMEBODY--SOMEBODY GIVE ME A HAND--
OOF!

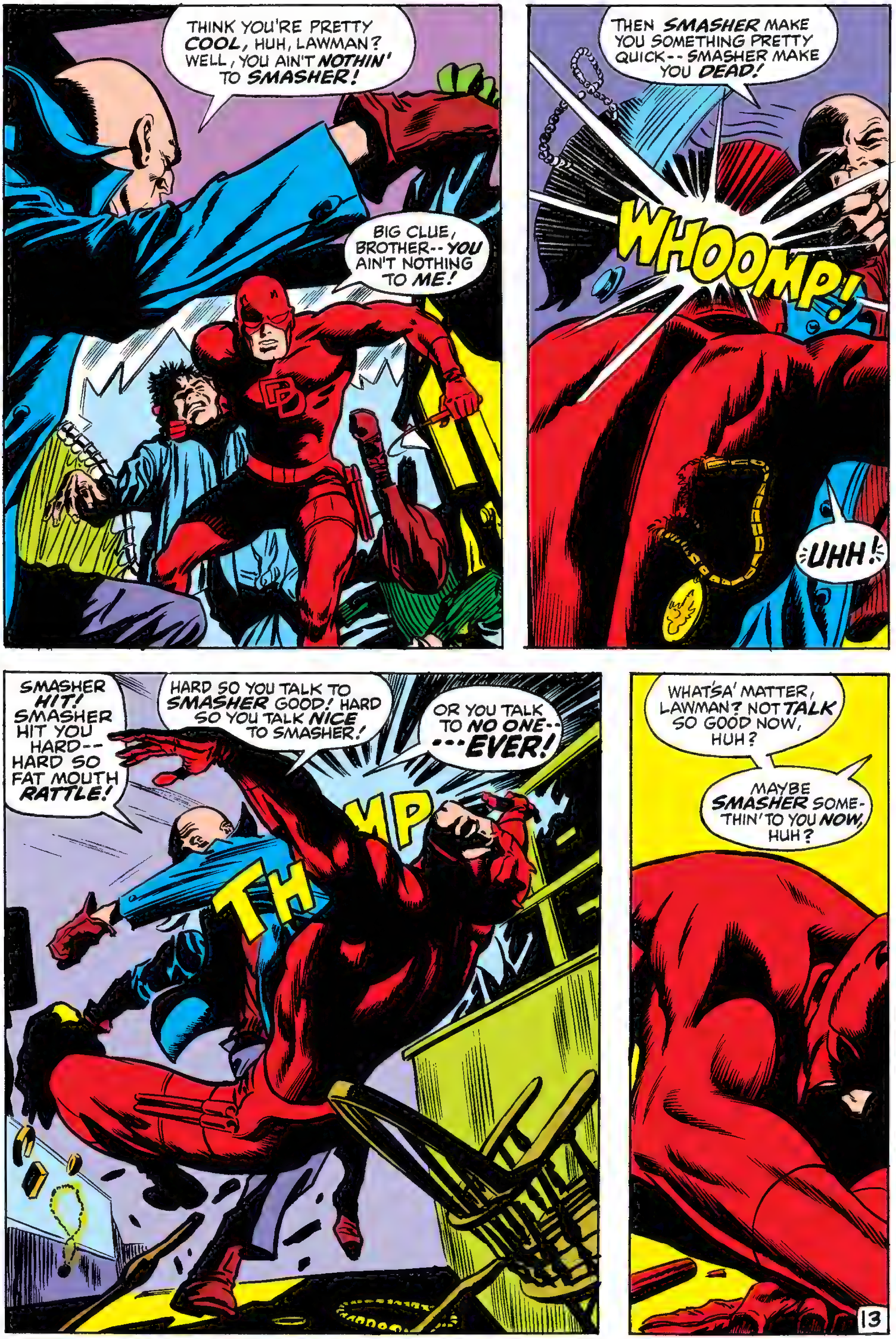

AND SLOWLY, FROM OUT OF BUILDINGS, OUT OF SUBWAYS AND ABANDONED CARS-- THEY BEGIN TO *APPEAR*---
TELL ME-- WILL SOMEONE PLEASE *TELL* ME? WHY IS IT SO *DARK*? I CAN'T--I--I--
GOTT! MINE EYES--MINE EYES, THEY CANNOT *SEE!*
EFFERYTHING IS *GREY*-- SO SOFT--NOW--NOW IT IS *BLACK!*
BLACK!
MATT--WHAT *IS* IT? WHAT'S GOING *ON?* WHAT ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE *SAYING?*
I DON'T KNOW, FOGGY--
HELP ME-- SOMEONE-- ANYONE! *PLEASE!*
ACCORDING TO MY *RADAR-SENSE*-- THAT APPROACHING CAR'S A *CAB*-- THAT LIGHT ON THE TOP--
AND A CAB IS JUST WHAT WE *NEED!*
F 50 ST
485 MADISON-- AND *HURRY!*
SURE, BUDDY, SURE! LIKE I'M GONNA GET A TICKET? OR MAYBE *SMASH-UP?* THIS WHOLE TOWN'S IN A BLASTED *HURRY*--
YOU SEE THOSE TWO BACK THERE? COMIN' TOGETHER LIKE THE DRIVERS WAS *BLIND* --*OH*---
SORRY, MISTER --I DIN'T *SEE*--
DON'T LET IT *BOTHER* YOU, FRIEND--THERE SEEMS TO BE AN *EPIDEMIC* OF SIGHTLESS-NESS!
AND *THAT* IS WHAT IS KNOWN AS YOUR *PROPHETIC IRONY,* TROOPS, AS BOTH YOU AND OUR LOVABLE LAWMEN WILL SOON FIND *OUT!*

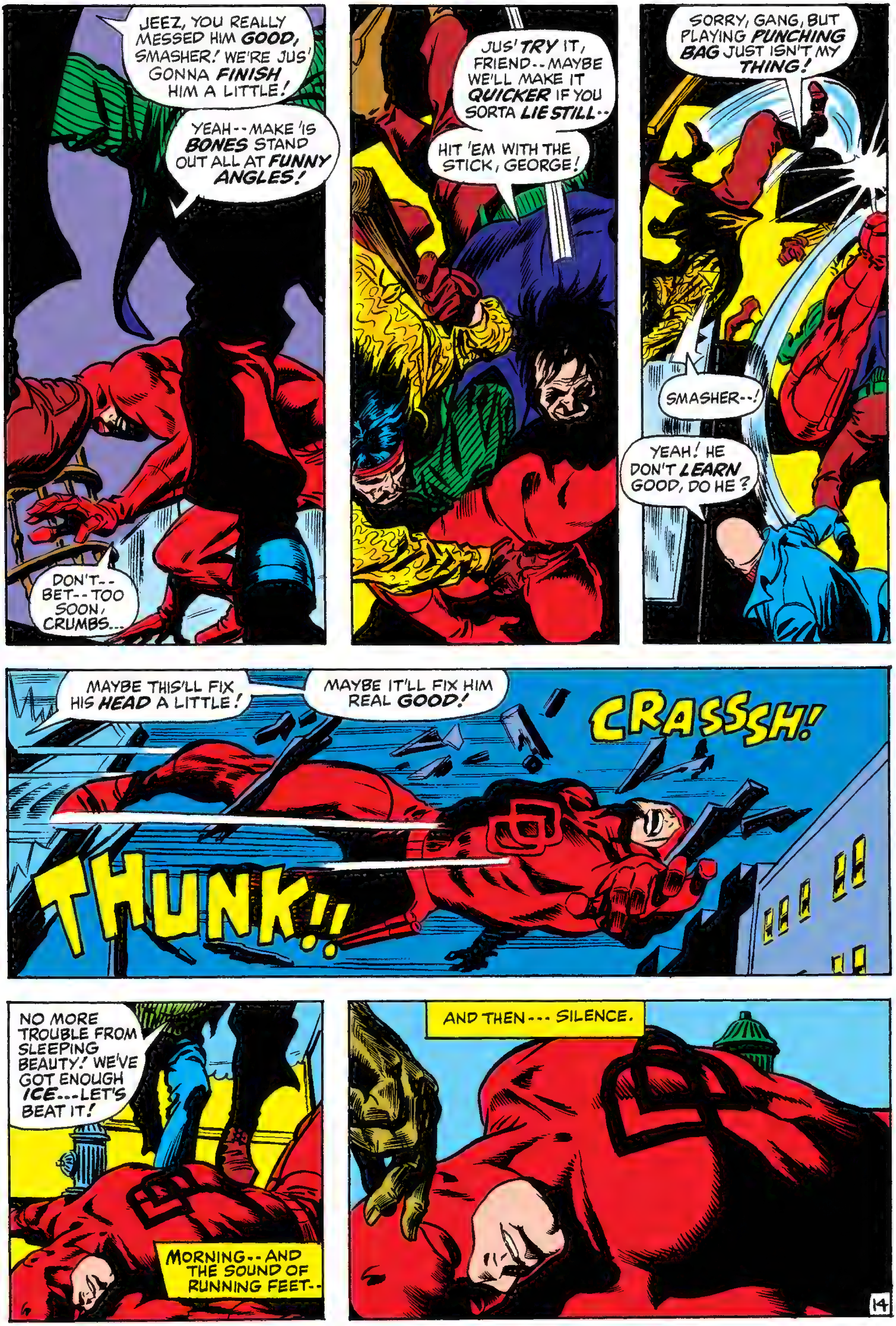

SHORTLY AFTER, IN THE OFFICES OF ONE JASON CARRINGTON, MATTHEW'S OPHTHAMOLOGIST...
CAN'T FIGURE IT, MATT. IT ALMOST SEEMS TO BE PSYCHOLOGICAL -- SOME SORT OF NERVOUS DISRUPTION---
I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYTHING LIKE IT!
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
SOMETHING'S IRRITATED THE MUSCLES AROUND THE PUPIL-- CAUSING THE IRIS TO CONTRACT---
DZLC
OTFUYA
-- RESULTING IN BLINDNESS! BUT WHAT-- AND HOW---
FRANKLY, I'M LOST!
PERHAPS HE'S BEEN UNDER A STRAIN. IT HAPPENS --- BUT NOT TO THIS EXTENT--
QUIET. ANY ADDITIONAL SHOCK MIGHT CAUSE FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE EYE TISSUES--
AH, MR. NELSON, I WOULDN'T LET THIS LITTLE --AH, DIFFICULTY UPSET ME-- EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE IN JUST A FEW DAYS---
MR. MURDOCK WILL TAKE YOU HOME-- I RECOMMEND REST AND PLENTY OF DARKNESS TO RELAX YOUR EYES---
THANKS, DOCTOR-- I EXPECT QUITE A BIT OF DARKNESS--
SOON, AT FOGGY'S APARTMENT ---
THANKS, MATT. YOU'VE -- BEEN A GREAT HELP. I ---
FORGET IT, FOGGY. JUST GET THAT REST--
-- WHILE OL' DD TAKES TO THE SKYWAYS!
DOC CARRINGTON MAY BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST EYE-MEN-- BUT WHEN IT COMES TO PERCEPTION, HE RANKS ZERO!
WHATEVER'S WRONG WITH FOGGY, IS WRONG WITH NOT A FEW MANHATTANITES---
-- AND THEY CAN'T ALL BE SUFFERING FROM A BAD CASE OF NERVOUS TWITCH! SOOO--

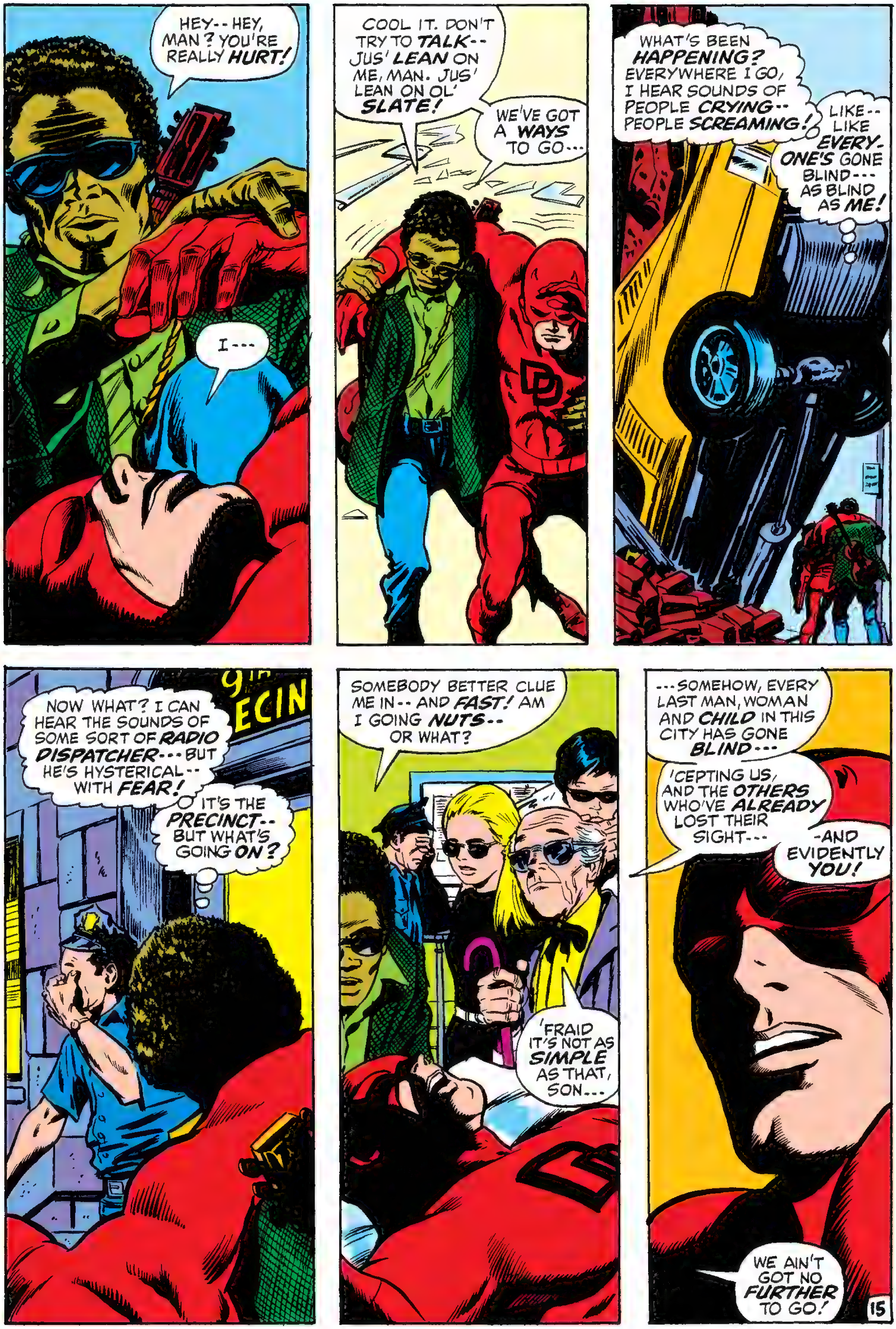

--DAREDEVIL'S ON THE PROWL AGAIN! MAYBE SOMEWHERE IN THIS SMOG-RIDDEN NIGHTMARE OF A BURG THERE'S A CLUE AS---
CUT, MASKED MAN! THAT WAS A SOUND BELOW YOU!
TINKLE!
THE SOMEWHAT CLASSICAL SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS! AND IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH TO SET MY SUSPICIONS CLICKING--
THE INFRA-RED HEAT OF THAT FLASHLIGHT IN THE ALLEY BELOW WOULD!
DISTANT, THOUGH PULLED CLOSE BY HIS RADAR SENSES--THE SOUND OF SHATTERING GLASS COMES AGAIN--
RIGHT ON, DD...
SSMASH!
--THERE ARE MEN BREAKING INTO THAT STORE!
KEEP IT DOWN, WILLYA, SMASHER? JEEZ--THEY ALL AIN'T DEAF TOO, YOU KNOW!

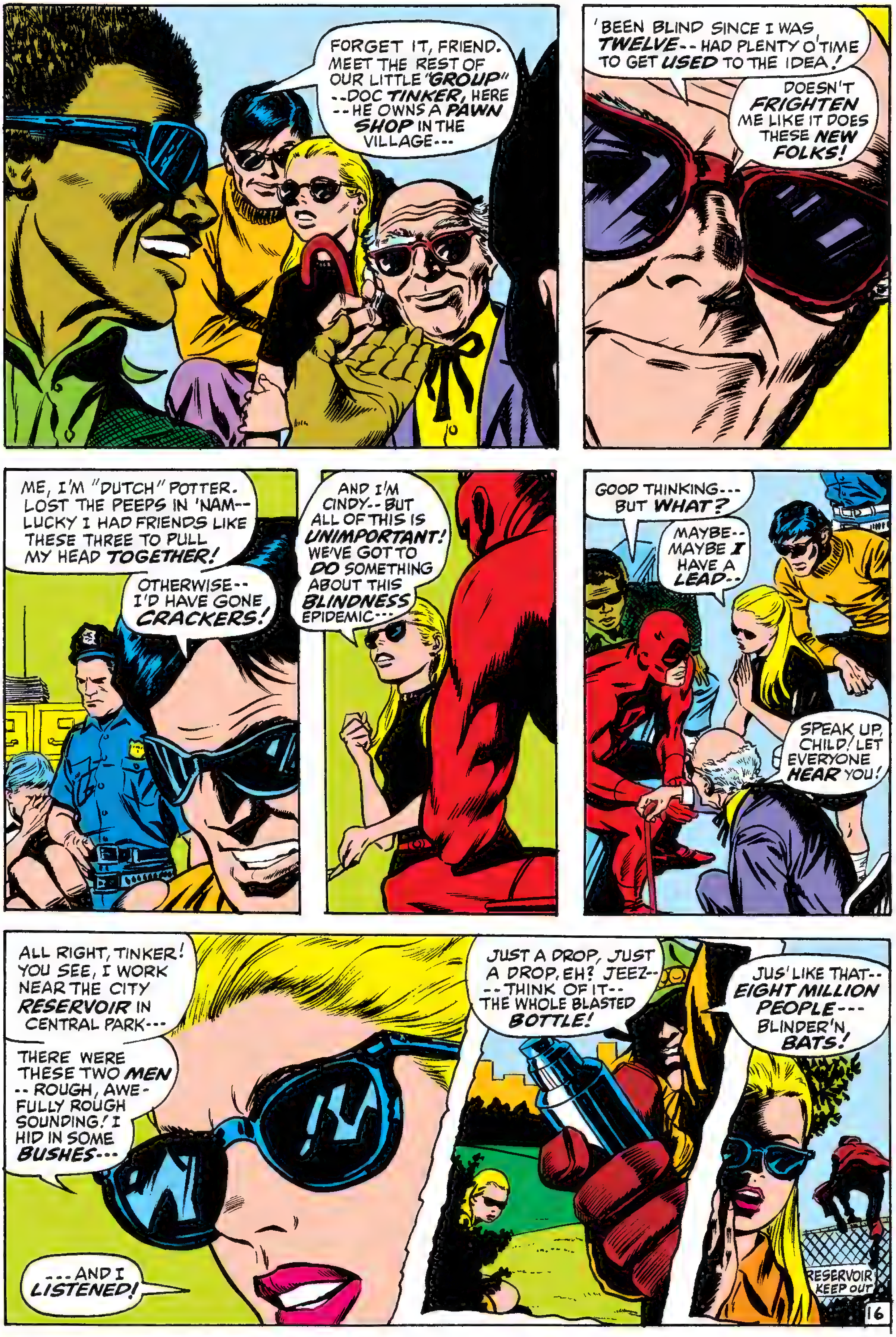

JEEZ--WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS STUFF? MUST BE MILLIONS IN THE SETTINGS ALONE!
JUST PLUCK 'EM UP--LIKE FLOWERS IN A GARDEN READY FOR PICKIN'!
CRASH!
HEY, SMASHER--THAT ALARM--
DINGLINGLING
LET IT RING! AIN'T NOBODY WITH ENOUGH EYES IN HIS HEAD LEFT TA STOP THE COMMITTEE!
WE'RE GONNA RIP-OFF THIS TOWN--WE'RE GONNA TEAR IT WIDE OPEN!
IT'S LIKE BEING THE INVISIBLE MAN!
LINGLING
WE GOT THE FUZZ RIGHT WHERE WE WANT 'EM!
AND YOU, GENTLEMEN, ARE RIGHT WERE I WANT YOU--
ALL GATHERED TOGETHER, NEAT AND TIDY--ALL "READY FOR THE PICKIN'S!"
READY--FOR THE HARVEST!
--AND HERE COMES THE HARVESTER!
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL--MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
THOUGHT WE'D NEVER GET TO IT, RIGHT? WRONG, FRANTIC ONES--THE ACTION'S JUST STARTING!

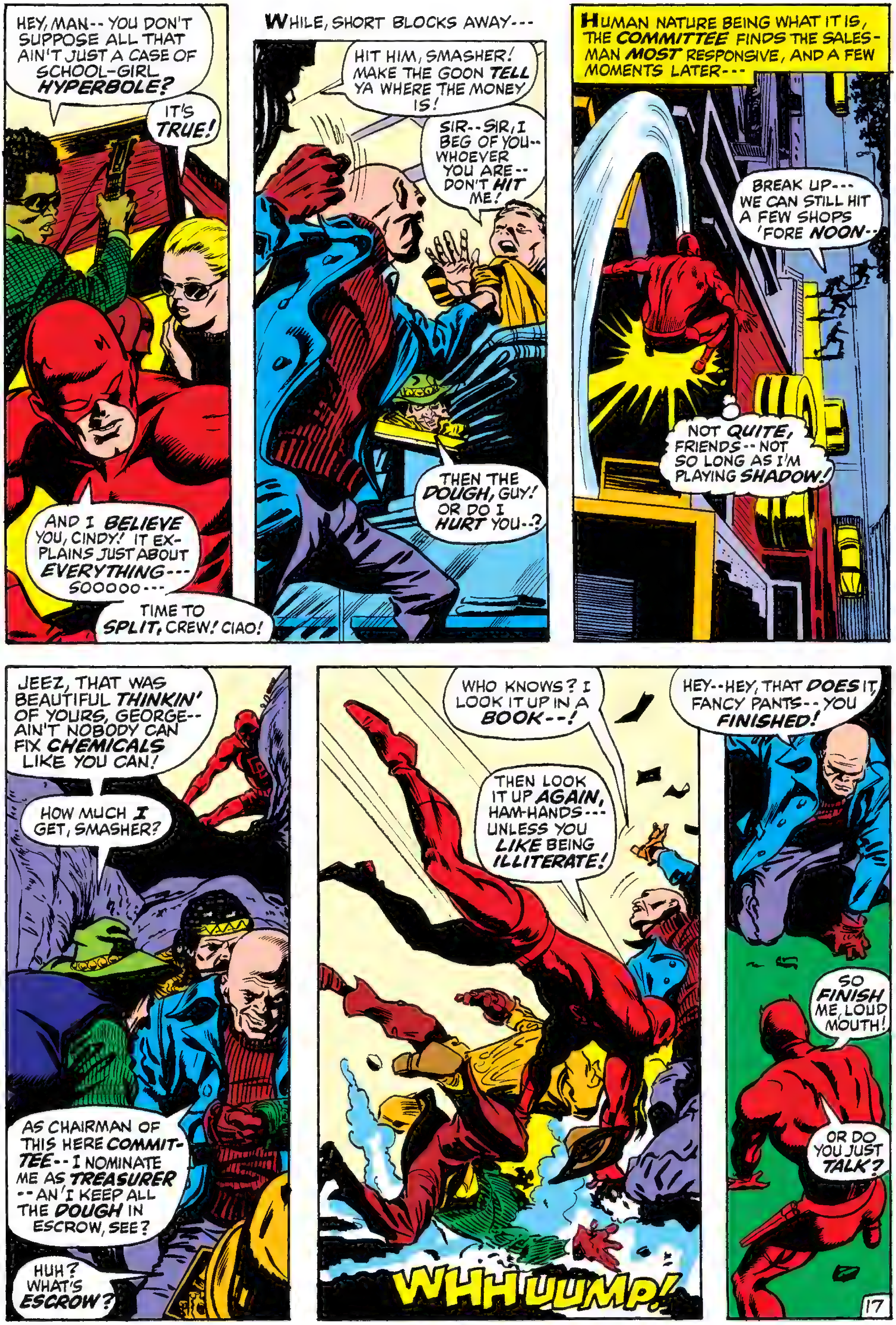
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY BUSTING UP THIS LITTLE GET-TOGETHER!
I'VE BEEN ITCHING FOR A SMALL BRAWL ALL NIGHT! MAYBE IT'S KINDA UNFAIR OF ME TO TAKE IT OUT ON ALL OF YOU GUYS--
--BUT WHAT WITH YOU ROBBING THE STORE AND ALL---
--WELL, I KIND OF HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!
NOTHING PERSONAL IN THIS--ITS JUST MY NATURAL HOSTILITY!
HA STORES
WHAM!
UUUNNGH!

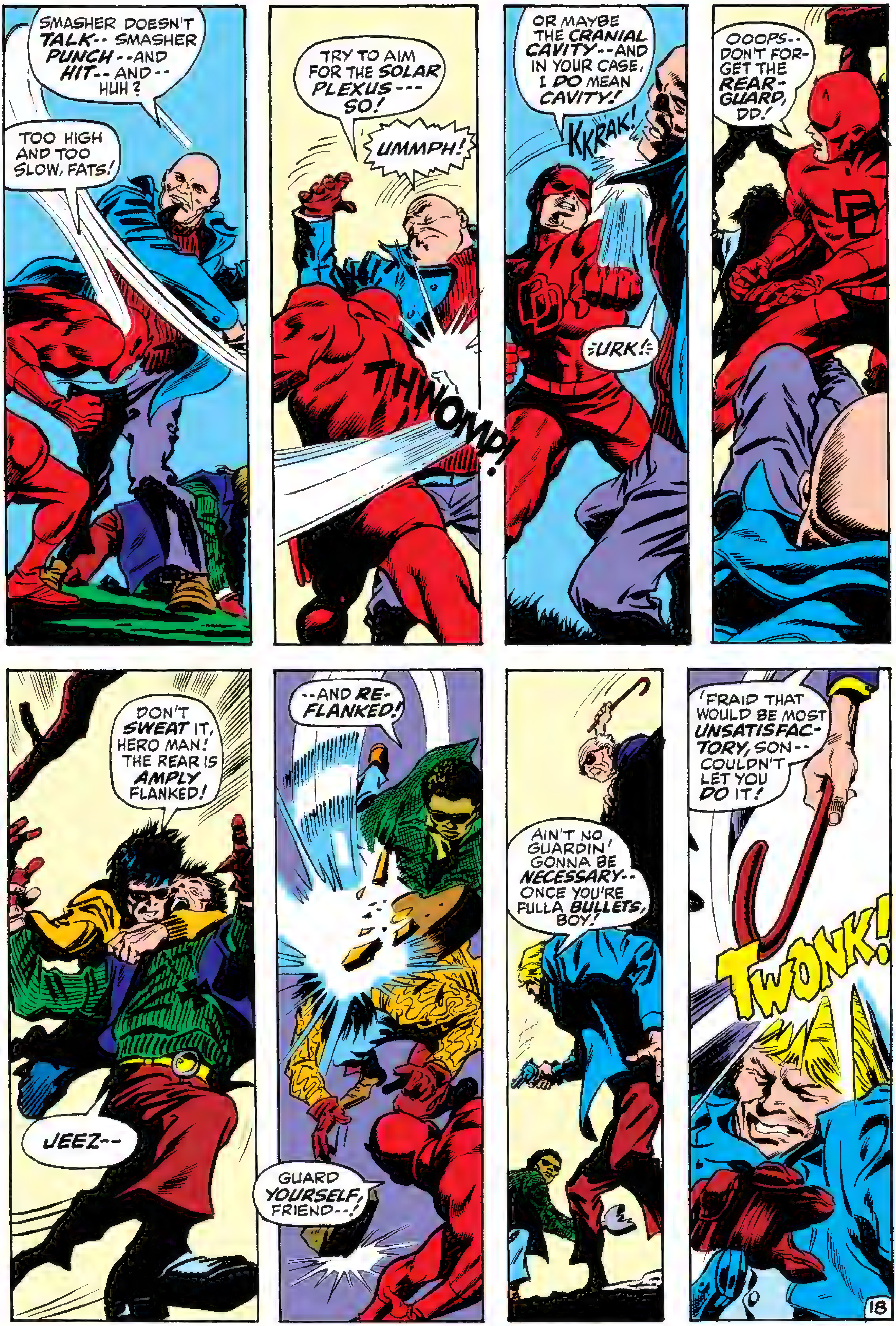

THINK YOU'RE PRETTY *COOL*, HUH, LAWMAN? WELL, YOU AIN'T *NOTHIN'* TO *SMASHER!*
BIG CLUE, BROTHER-- *YOU* AIN'T NOTHING TO *ME!*
THEN *SMASHER* MAKE YOU SOMETHING PRETTY QUICK-- SMASHER MAKE YOU *DEAD!*
WHOOMP!
UHH!
SMASHER *HIT!* SMASHER HIT YOU HARD-- HARD SO FAT MOUTH *RATTLE!*
HARD SO YOU TALK TO *SMASHER* GOOD! HARD SO YOU TALK *NICE* TO SMASHER!
OR YOU TALK TO *NO ONE*-- --*EVER!*
THMP
WHAT'SA' MATTER, LAWMAN? NOT *TALK* SO GOOD NOW, HUH?
MAYBE *SMASHER* SOME-THIN' TO YOU *NOW*, HUH?

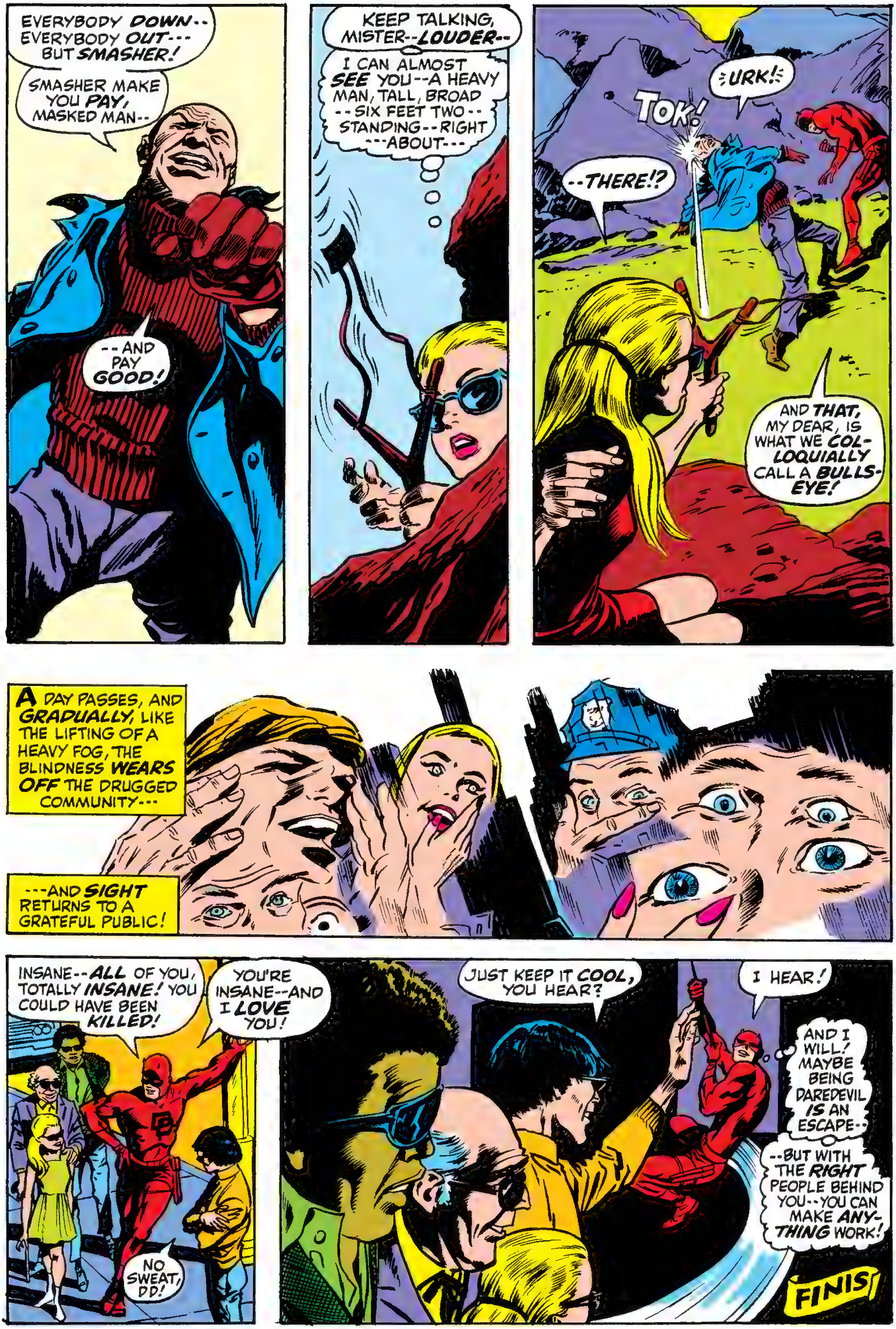

JEEZ, YOU REALLY MESSED HIM GOOD, SMASHER! WE'RE JUS' GONNA FINISH HIM A LITTLE!
YEAH--MAKE 'IS BONES STAND OUT ALL AT FUNNY ANGLES!
DON'T--BET--TOO SOON, CRUMBS...
JUS' TRY IT, FRIEND--MAYBE WE'LL MAKE IT QUICKER IF YOU SORTA LIE STILL--
HIT 'EM WITH THE STICK, GEORGE!
SORRY, GANG, BUT PLAYING PUNCHING BAG JUST ISN'T MY THING!
SMASHER--!
YEAH! HE DON'T LEARN GOOD, DO HE?
MAYBE THIS'LL FIX HIS HEAD A LITTLE!
MAYBE IT'LL FIX HIM REAL GOOD!
CRASSSH!
THUNK!!
NO MORE TROUBLE FROM SLEEPING BEAUTY! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH ICE--LET'S BEAT IT!
MORNING--AND THE SOUND OF RUNNING FEET--
AND THEN--- SILENCE.


HEY-- HEY, MAN? YOU'RE REALLY HURT!
I---
COOL IT. DON'T TRY TO TALK-- JUS' LEAN ON ME, MAN. JUS' LEAN ON OL' SLATE!
WE'VE GOT A WAYS TO GO...
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING? EVERYWHERE I GO, I HEAR SOUNDS OF PEOPLE CRYING-- PEOPLE SCREAMING!
LIKE-- LIKE EVERYONE'S GONE BLIND--- AS BLIND AS ME!
9TH
ECIN
NOW WHAT? I CAN HEAR THE SOUNDS OF SOME SORT OF RADIO DISPATCHER--- BUT HE'S HYSTERICAL-- WITH FEAR!
IT'S THE PRECINCT-- BUT WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOMEBODY BETTER CLUE ME IN-- AND FAST! AM I GOING NUTS-- OR WHAT?
'FRAID IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT, SON...
---SOMEHOW, EVERY LAST MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THIS CITY HAS GONE BLIND---
'CEPTING US, AND THE OTHERS WHO'VE ALREADY LOST THEIR SIGHT---
-AND EVIDENTLY YOU!
WE AIN'T GOT NO FURTHER TO GO!


FORGET IT, FRIEND. MEET THE REST OF OUR LITTLE "GROUP" --DOC TINKER, HERE --HE OWNS A PAWN SHOP IN THE VILLAGE---
'BEEN BLIND SINCE I WAS TWELVE--HAD PLENTY O'TIME TO GET USED TO THE IDEA!
DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME LIKE IT DOES THESE NEW FOLKS!
ME, I'M "DUTCH" POTTER. LOST THE PEEPS IN 'NAM-- LUCKY I HAD FRIENDS LIKE THESE THREE TO PULL MY HEAD TOGETHER!
OTHERWISE-- I'D HAVE GONE CRACKERS!
AND I'M CINDY--BUT ALL OF THIS IS UNIMPORTANT! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BLINDNESS EPIDEMIC---
GOOD THINKING--- BUT WHAT?
MAYBE-- MAYBE I HAVE A LEAD--
SPEAK UP, CHILD! LET EVERYONE HEAR YOU!
ALL RIGHT, TINKER! YOU SEE, I WORK NEAR THE CITY RESERVOIR IN CENTRAL PARK---
THERE WERE THESE TWO MEN -- ROUGH, AWE-FULLY ROUGH SOUNDING! I HID IN SOME BUSHES---
---AND I LISTENED!
JUST A DROP, JUST A DROP, EH? JEEZ-- --THINK OF IT-- THE WHOLE BLASTED BOTTLE!
JUS' LIKE THAT-- EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE--- BLINDER'N BATS!
RESERVOIR KEEP OUT

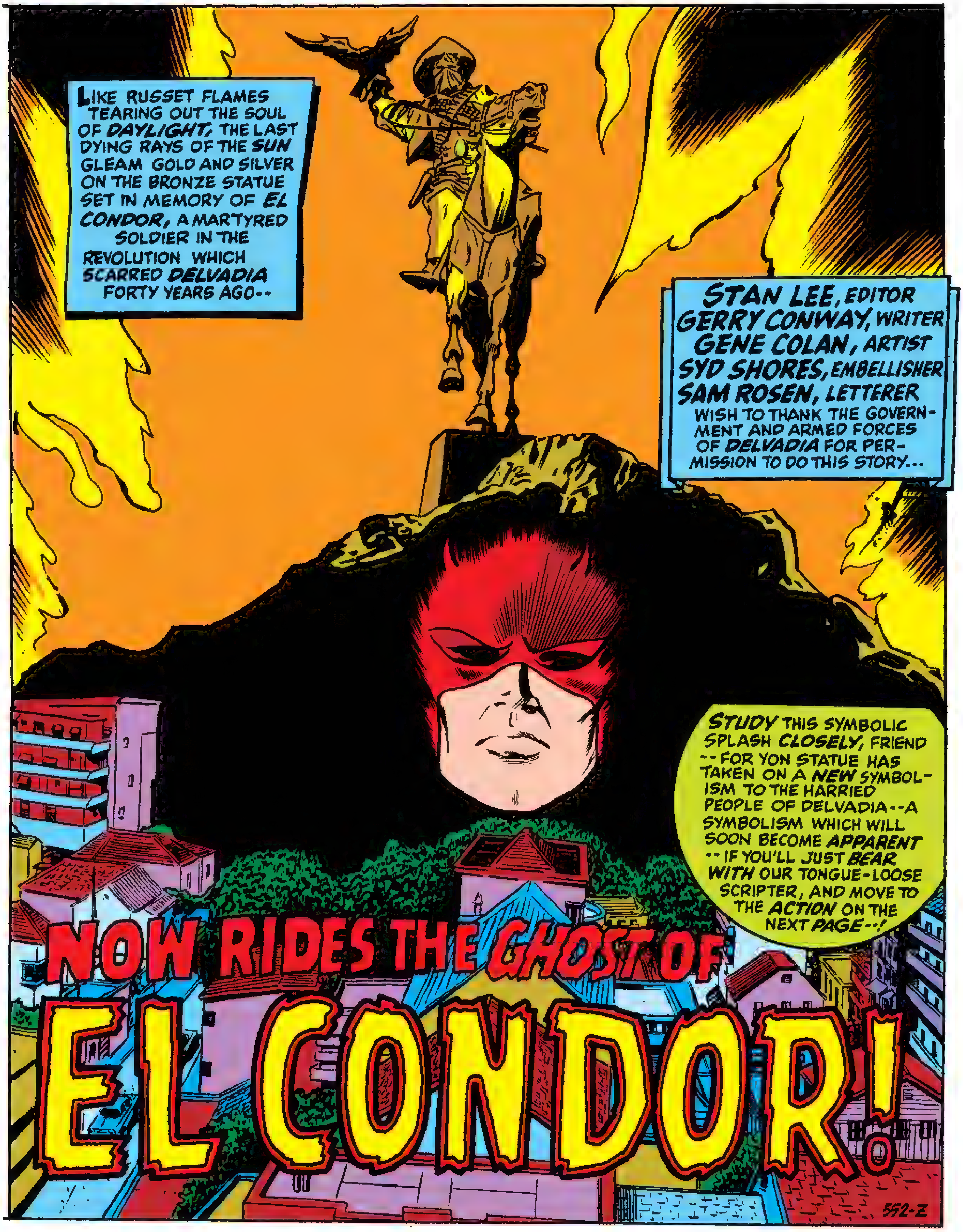

HEY, MAN-- YOU DON'T SUPPOSE ALL THAT AIN'T JUST A CASE OF SCHOOL-GIRL **HYPERBOLE?**
IT'S **TRUE!**
AND I **BELIEVE** YOU, CINDY! IT EXPLAINS JUST ABOUT **EVERYTHING**--- SOOOOO---
TIME TO **SPLIT,** CREW! CIAO!
WHILE, SHORT BLOCKS AWAY---
HIT HIM, SMASHER! MAKE THE GOON **TELL** YA WHERE THE MONEY IS!
SIR--SIR, I BEG OF YOU-- WHOEVER YOU ARE-- DON'T **HIT** ME!
THEN THE **DOUGH,** GUY! OR DO I **HURT** YOU--?
HUMAN NATURE BEING WHAT IT IS, THE **COMMITTEE** FINDS THE SALESMAN **MOST** RESPONSIVE, AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER---
BREAK UP--- WE CAN STILL HIT A FEW SHOPS 'FORE **NOON**--
NOT **QUITE,** FRIENDS-- NOT SO LONG AS I'M PLAYING **SHADOW!**
JEEZ, THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL **THINKIN'** OF YOURS, GEORGE-- AIN'T NOBODY CAN FIX **CHEMICALS** LIKE YOU CAN!
HOW MUCH **I** GET, SMASHER?
AS CHAIRMAN OF THIS HERE **COMMITTEE**-- I NOMINATE ME AS **TREASURER**-- AN' I KEEP ALL THE **DOUGH** IN ESCROW, SEE?
HUH? WHAT'S **ESCROW?**
WHO KNOWS? I LOOK IT UP IN A **BOOK**--!
THEN LOOK IT UP **AGAIN,** HAM-HANDS--- UNLESS YOU **LIKE** BEING **ILLITERATE!**
WHHUUMP!
HEY--HEY, THAT **DOES** IT, FANCY PANTS-- YOU **FINISHED!**
SO **FINISH** ME, LOUD MOUTH!
OR DO YOU JUST **TALK?**

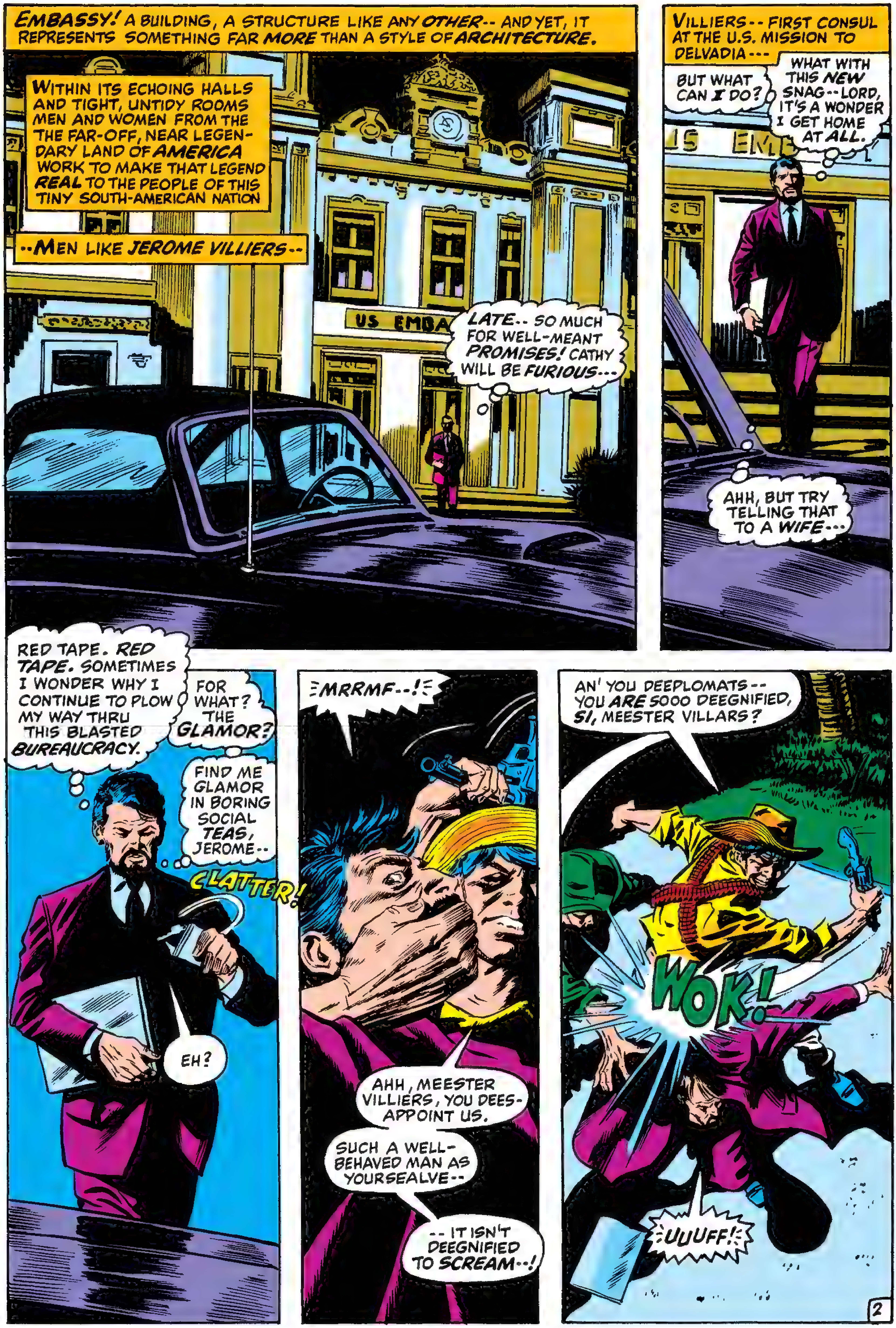

SMASHER DOESN'T TALK-- SMASHER PUNCH--AND HIT-- AND-- HUH?
TOO HIGH AND TOO SLOW, FATS!
TRY TO AIM FOR THE SOLAR PLEXUS--- SO!
UMMPH!
THWOMP!
OR MAYBE THE CRANIAL CAVITY--AND IN YOUR CASE, I DO MEAN CAVITY!
KKRAK!
URK!
OOOPS-- DON'T FORGET THE REAR-GUARD, DD!
DON'T SWEAT IT, HERO MAN! THE REAR IS AMPLY FLANKED!
JEEZ--
--AND RE-FLANKED!
GUARD YOURSELF, FRIEND--!
AIN'T NO GUARDIN' GONNA BE NECESSARY-- ONCE YOU'RE FULLA BULLETS, BOY!
'FRAID THAT WOULD BE MOST UNSATISFACTORY, SON-- COULDN'T LET YOU DO IT!
TWONK!

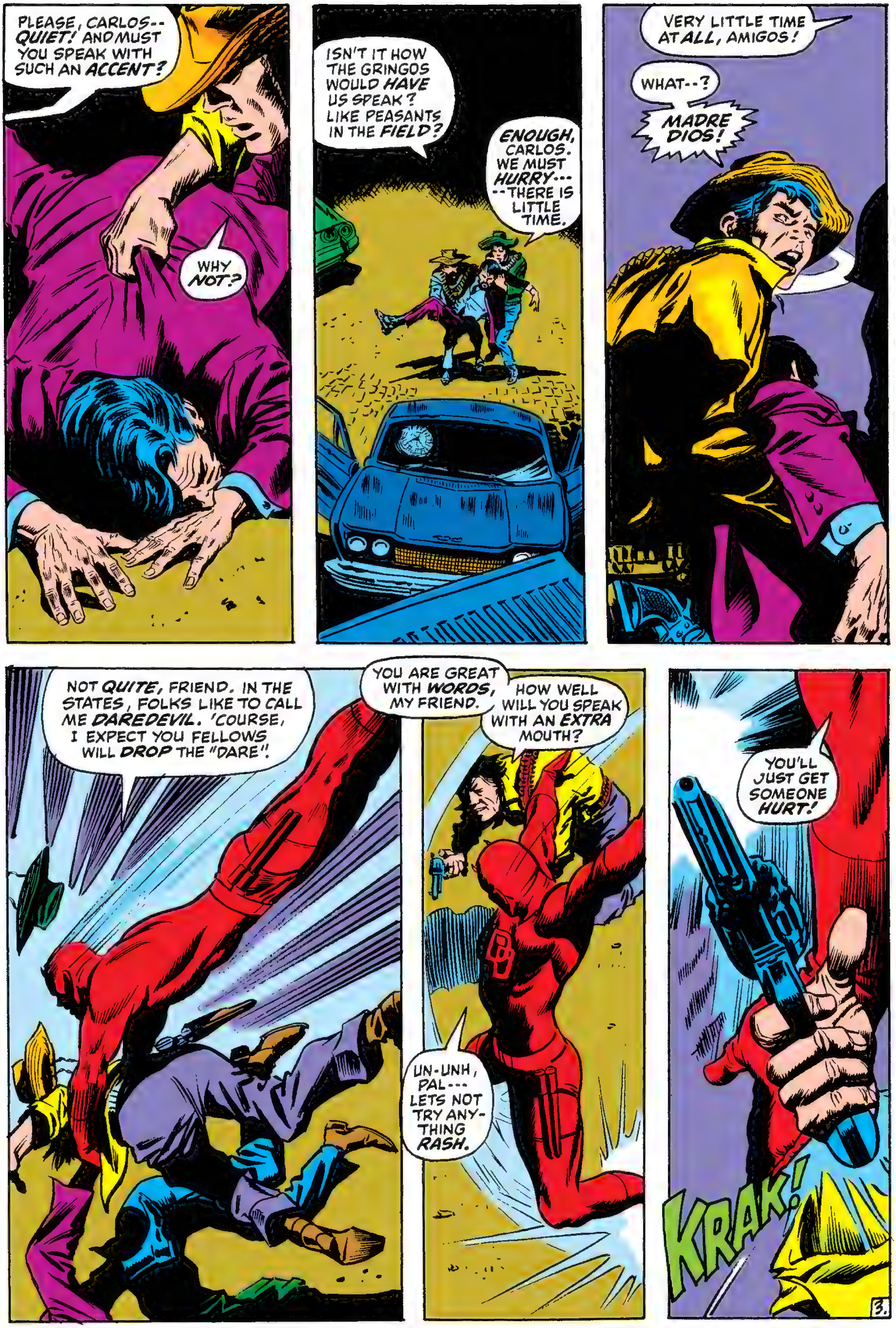

EVERYBODY DOWN-- EVERYBODY OUT--- BUT SMASHER!
SMASHER MAKE YOU PAY, MASKED MAN--
--AND PAY GOOD!
KEEP TALKING, MISTER--LOUDER--
I CAN ALMOST SEE YOU--A HEAVY MAN, TALL, BROAD --SIX FEET TWO-- STANDING--RIGHT ---ABOUT---
--THERE!?
TOK!
URK!
AND THAT, MY DEAR, IS WHAT WE COLLOQUIALLY CALL A BULLS-EYE!
A DAY PASSES, AND GRADUALLY, LIKE THE LIFTING OF A HEAVY FOG, THE BLINDNESS WEARS OFF THE DRUGGED COMMUNITY---
---AND SIGHT RETURNS TO A GRATEFUL PUBLIC!
INSANE--ALL OF YOU, TOTALLY INSANE! YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!
YOU'RE INSANE--AND I LOVE YOU!
NO SWEAT, DD!
JUST KEEP IT COOL, YOU HEAR?
I HEAR!
AND I WILL! MAYBE BEING DAREDEVIL IS AN ESCAPE--
--BUT WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE BEHIND YOU--YOU CAN MAKE ANYTHING WORK!
FINIS

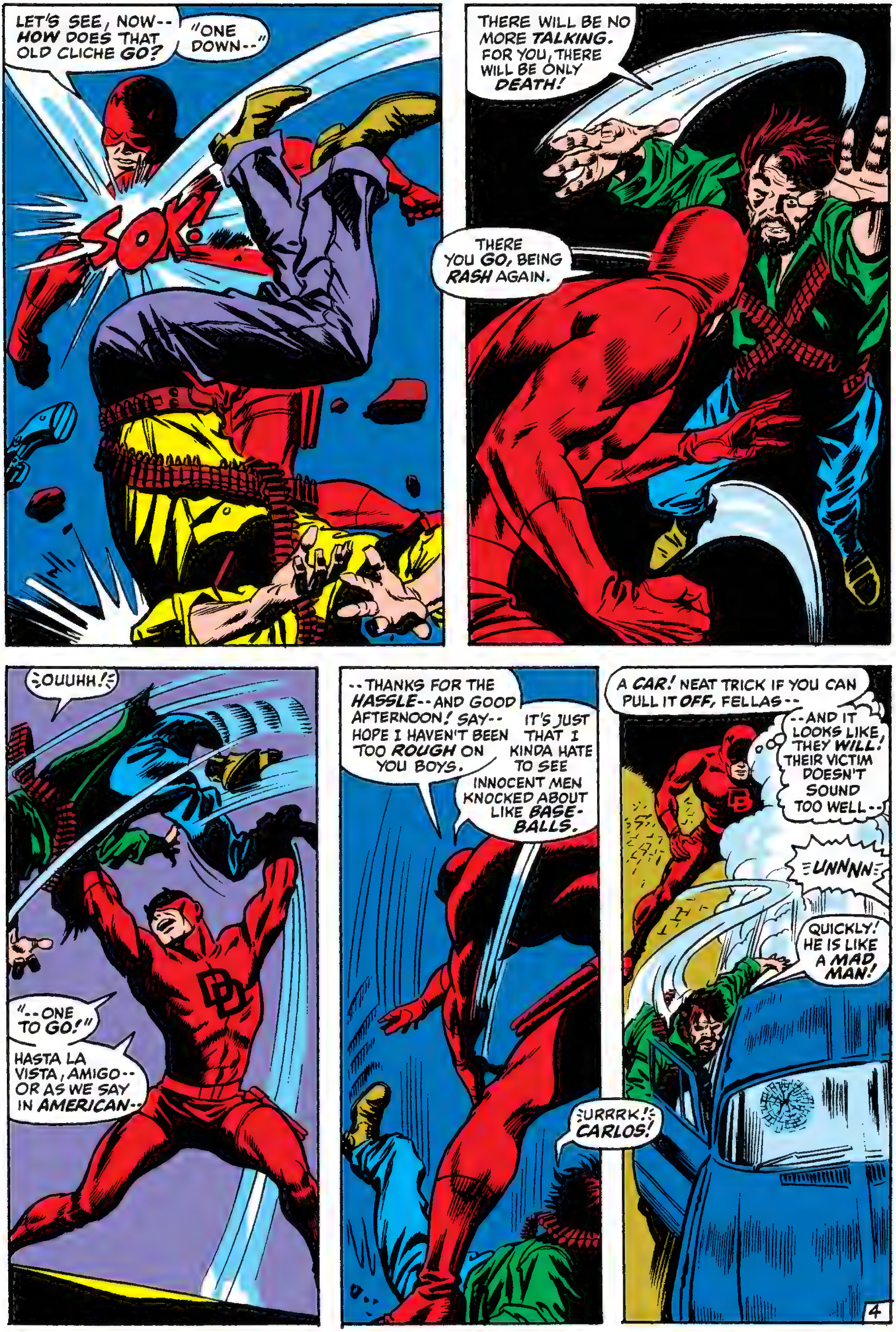
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
75
APR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
A SHOCKER...
RIPPED FROM TODAY'S SCREAMING HEADLINES!!
DAILY BUGLE
THURSDAY FEB 4 1971 NEW YORK 10017 N.Y.
KIDNAPING 2 DIE
Chief Rival
A Kidnaping I
IN THE SINISTER SHADOW OF...EL CONDOR!

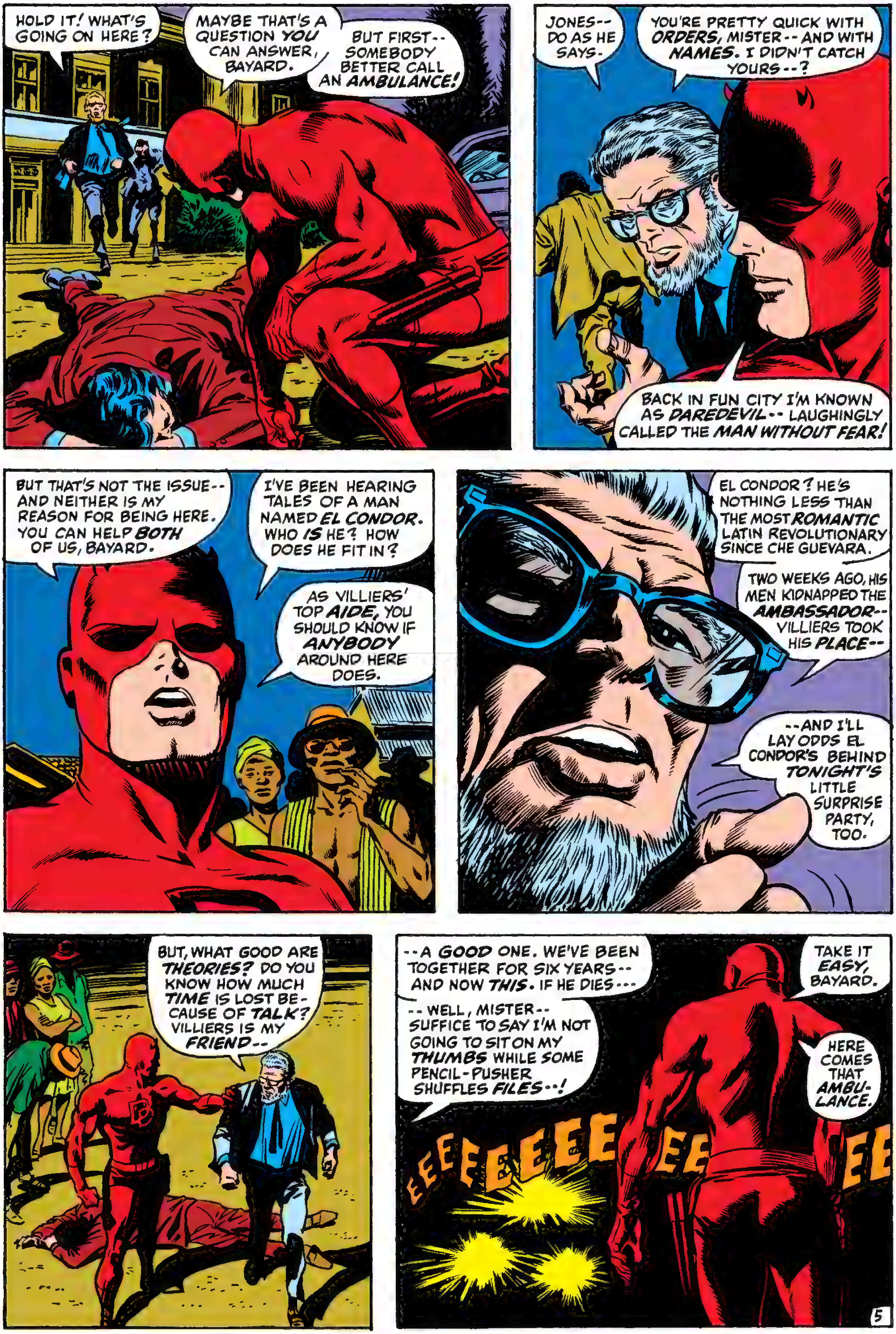
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

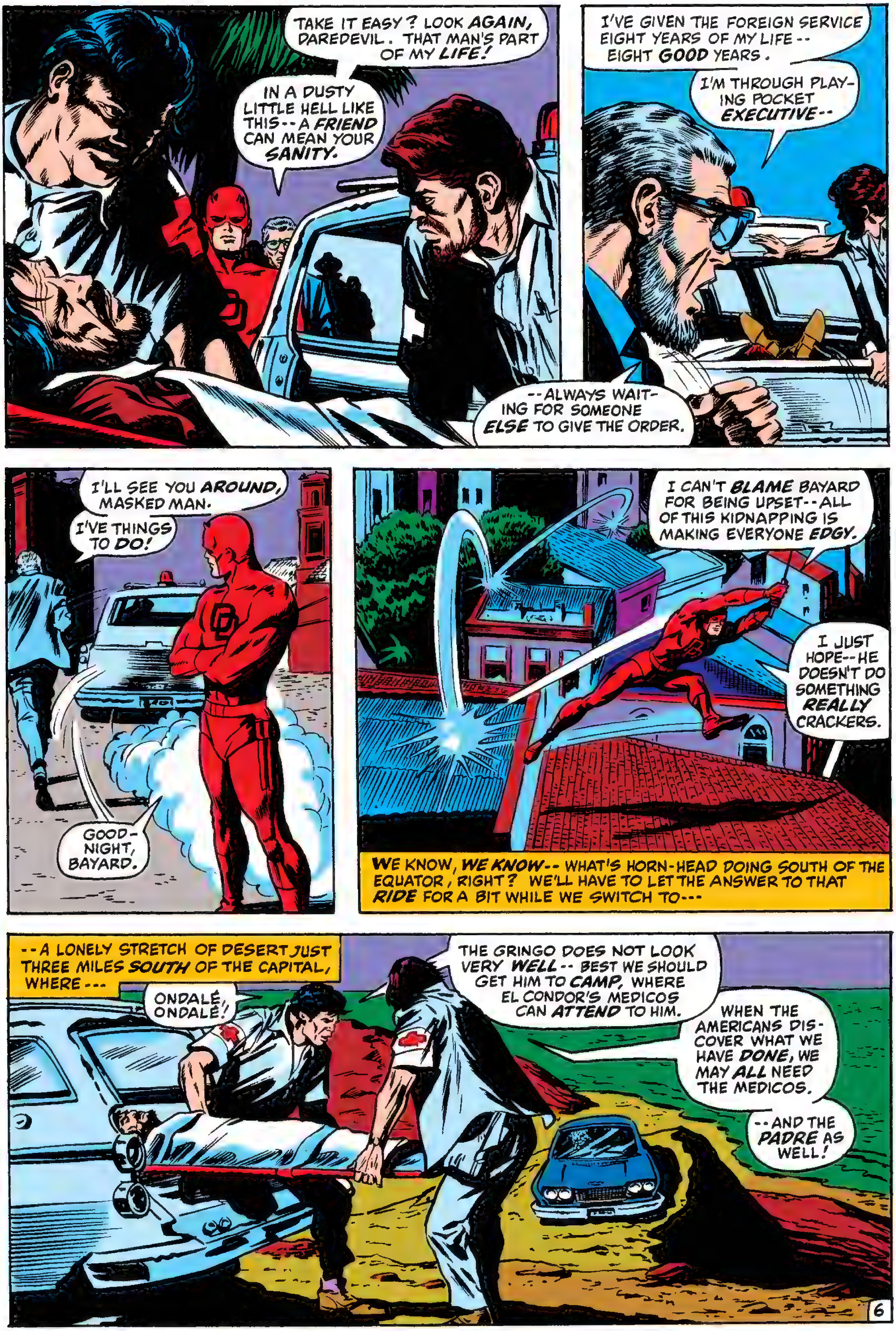

LIKE RUSSET FLAMES TEARING OUT THE SOUL OF *DAYLIGHT*, THE LAST DYING RAYS OF THE *SUN* GLEAM GOLD AND SILVER ON THE BRONZE STATUE SET IN MEMORY OF *EL CONDOR*, A MARTYRED SOLDIER IN THE REVOLUTION WHICH SCARRED *DELVADIA* FORTY YEARS AGO--
STAN LEE, EDITOR
GERRY CONWAY, WRITER
GENE COLAN, ARTIST
SYD SHORES, EMBELLISHER
SAM ROSEN, LETTERER
WISH TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES OF *DELVADIA* FOR PERMISSION TO DO THIS STORY...
STUDY THIS SYMBOLIC SPLASH *CLOSELY*, FRIEND -- FOR YON STATUE HAS TAKEN ON A *NEW* SYMBOLISM TO THE HARRIED PEOPLE OF DELVADIA--A SYMBOLISM WHICH WILL SOON BECOME *APPARENT* -- IF YOU'LL JUST *BEAR WITH* OUR TONGUE-LOOSE SCRIPTER, AND MOVE TO THE *ACTION* ON THE NEXT *PAGE*--!
NOW RIDES THE *GHOST* OF
EL CONDOR!
552-Z

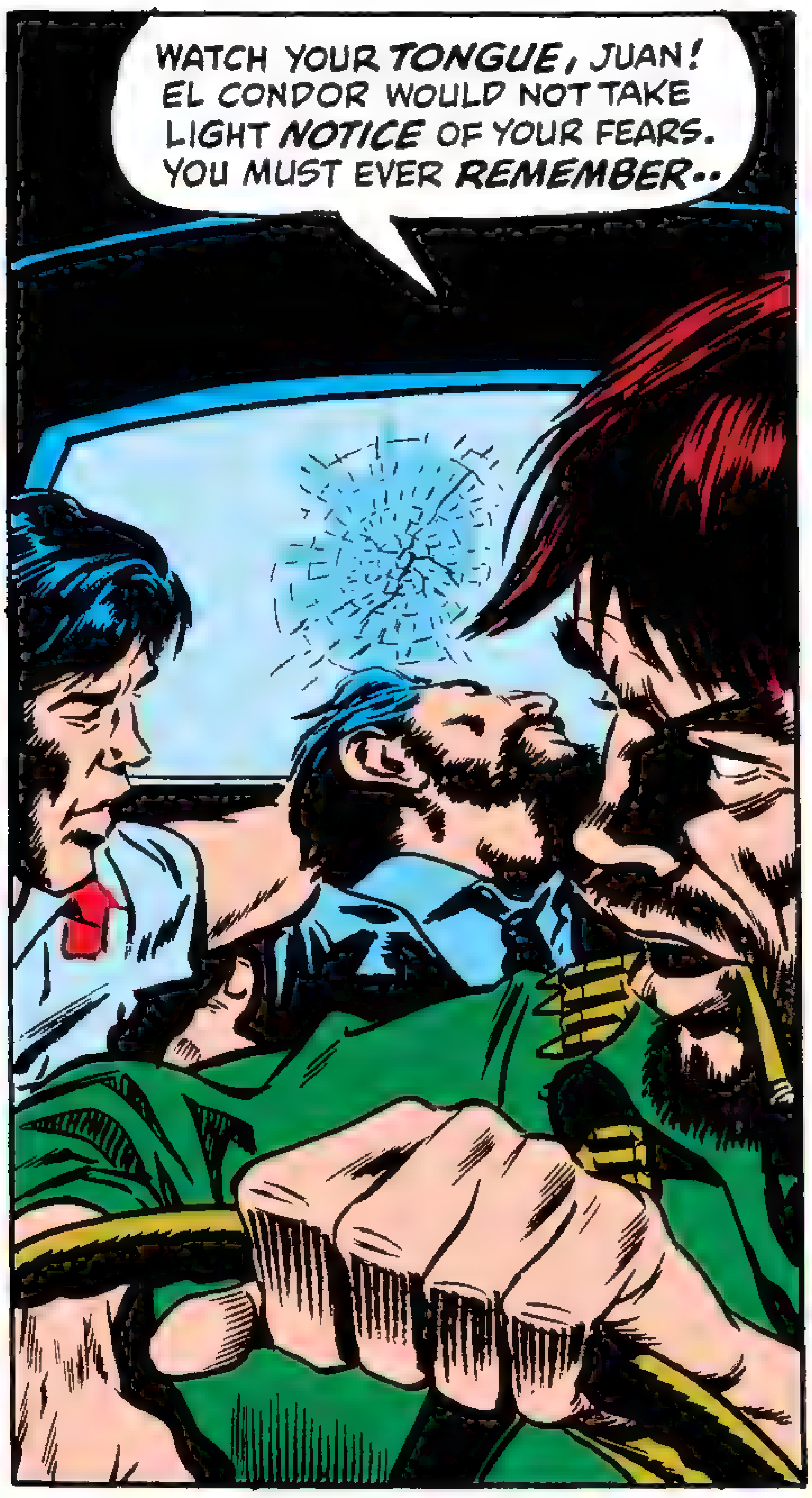

EMBASSY! A BUILDING, A STRUCTURE LIKE ANY OTHER -- AND YET, IT REPRESENTS SOMETHING FAR MORE THAN A STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE.
WITHIN ITS ECHOING HALLS AND TIGHT, UNTIDY ROOMS MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE THE FAR-OFF, NEAR LEGENDARY LAND OF AMERICA WORK TO MAKE THAT LEGEND REAL TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS TINY SOUTH-AMERICAN NATION
-- MEN LIKE JEROME VILLIERS --
US EMBA
LATE.. SO MUCH FOR WELL-MEANT PROMISES! CATHY WILL BE FURIOUS...
VILLIERS -- FIRST CONSUL AT THE U.S. MISSION TO DELVADIA ---
BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
WHAT WITH THIS NEW SNAG -- LORD, IT'S A WONDER I GET HOME AT ALL.
US EMB
AHH, BUT TRY TELLING THAT TO A WIFE...
RED TAPE. RED TAPE. SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I CONTINUE TO PLOW MY WAY THRU THIS BLASTED BUREAUCRACY.
FOR WHAT? THE GLAMOR?
FIND ME GLAMOR IN BORING SOCIAL TEAS, JEROME --
CLATTER!
EH?
MRRMF--!
AHH, MEESTER VILLIERS, YOU DEESAPPOINT US.
SUCH A WELL-BEHAVED MAN AS YOURSEALVE --
-- IT ISN'T DEEGNIFIED TO SCREAM --!
AN' YOU DEEPLOMATS -- YOU ARE SOOO DEEGNIFIED, SI, MEESTER VILLARS?
WOK!
UUUFF!

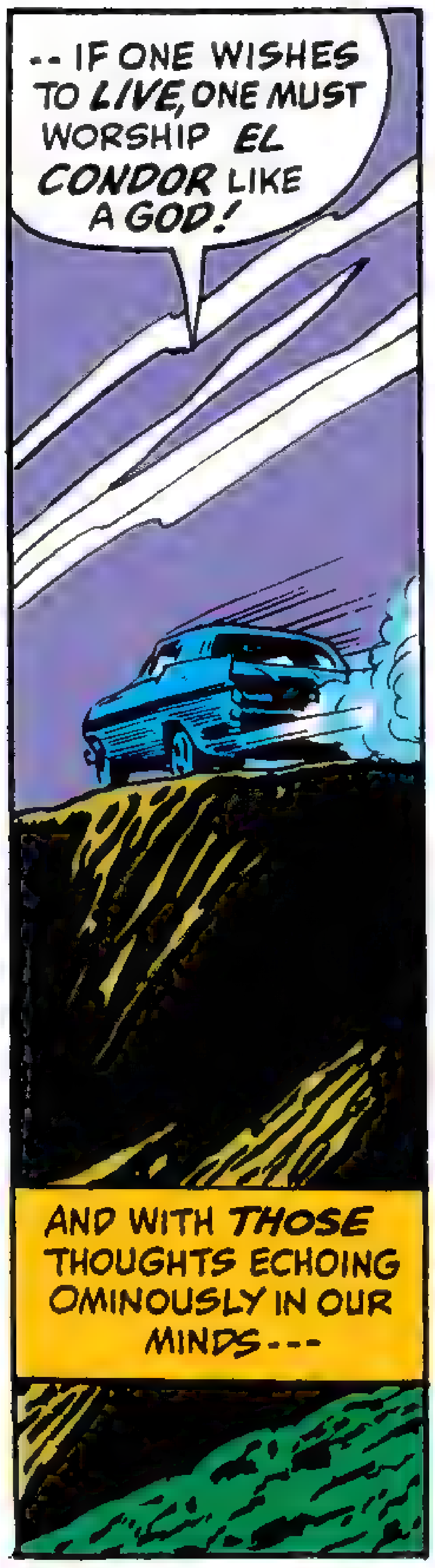

PLEASE, CARLOS-- QUIET! AND MUST YOU SPEAK WITH SUCH AN ACCENT?
WHY NOT?
ISN'T IT HOW THE GRINGOS WOULD HAVE US SPEAK? LIKE PEASANTS IN THE FIELD?
ENOUGH, CARLOS. WE MUST HURRY--- --THERE IS LITTLE TIME.
VERY LITTLE TIME AT ALL, AMIGOS!
WHAT--?
MADRE DIOS!
NOT QUITE, FRIEND. IN THE STATES, FOLKS LIKE TO CALL ME DAREDEVIL. 'COURSE, I EXPECT YOU FELLOWS WILL DROP THE "DARE".
YOU ARE GREAT WITH WORDS, MY FRIEND.
HOW WELL WILL YOU SPEAK WITH AN EXTRA MOUTH?
UN-UNH, PAL--- LETS NOT TRY ANYTHING RASH.
YOU'LL JUST GET SOMEONE HURT!
KRAK!
3.

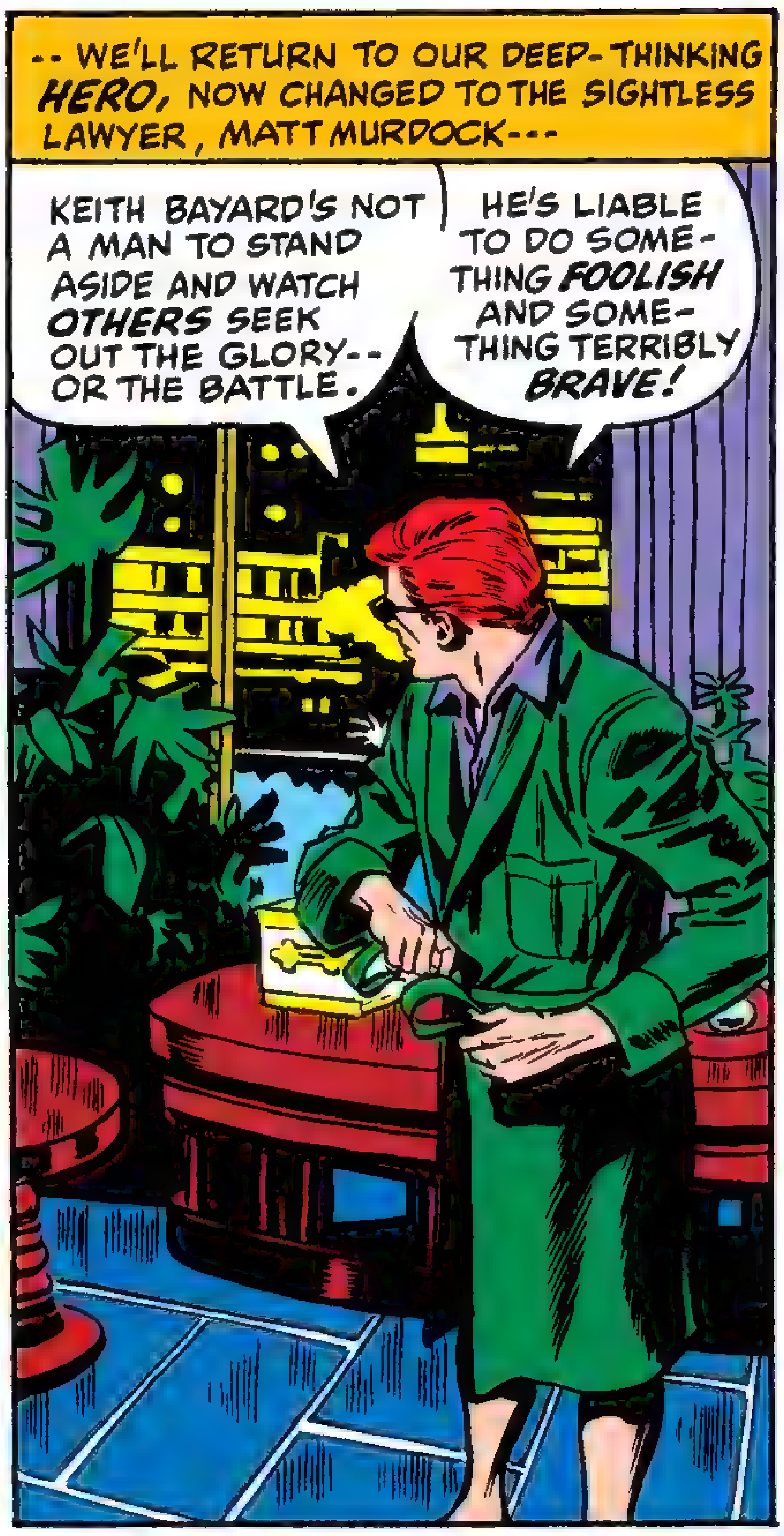

LET'S SEE, NOW-- HOW DOES THAT OLD CLICHE GO?
"ONE DOWN--"
SOK!
THERE WILL BE NO MORE TALKING. FOR YOU, THERE WILL BE ONLY DEATH!
THERE YOU GO, BEING RASH AGAIN.
OUUHH!
"--ONE TO GO!"
HASTA LA VISTA, AMIGO-- OR AS WE SAY IN AMERICAN--
--THANKS FOR THE HASSLE--AND GOOD AFTERNOON! SAY-- HOPE I HAVEN'T BEEN TOO ROUGH ON YOU BOYS.
IT'S JUST THAT I KINDA HATE TO SEE INNOCENT MEN KNOCKED ABOUT LIKE BASE-BALLS.
URRRK! CARLOS!
A CAR! NEAT TRICK IF YOU CAN PULL IT OFF, FELLAS--
--AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WILL! THEIR VICTIM DOESN'T SOUND TOO WELL--
UNNNN
QUICKLY! HE IS LIKE A MAD MAN!

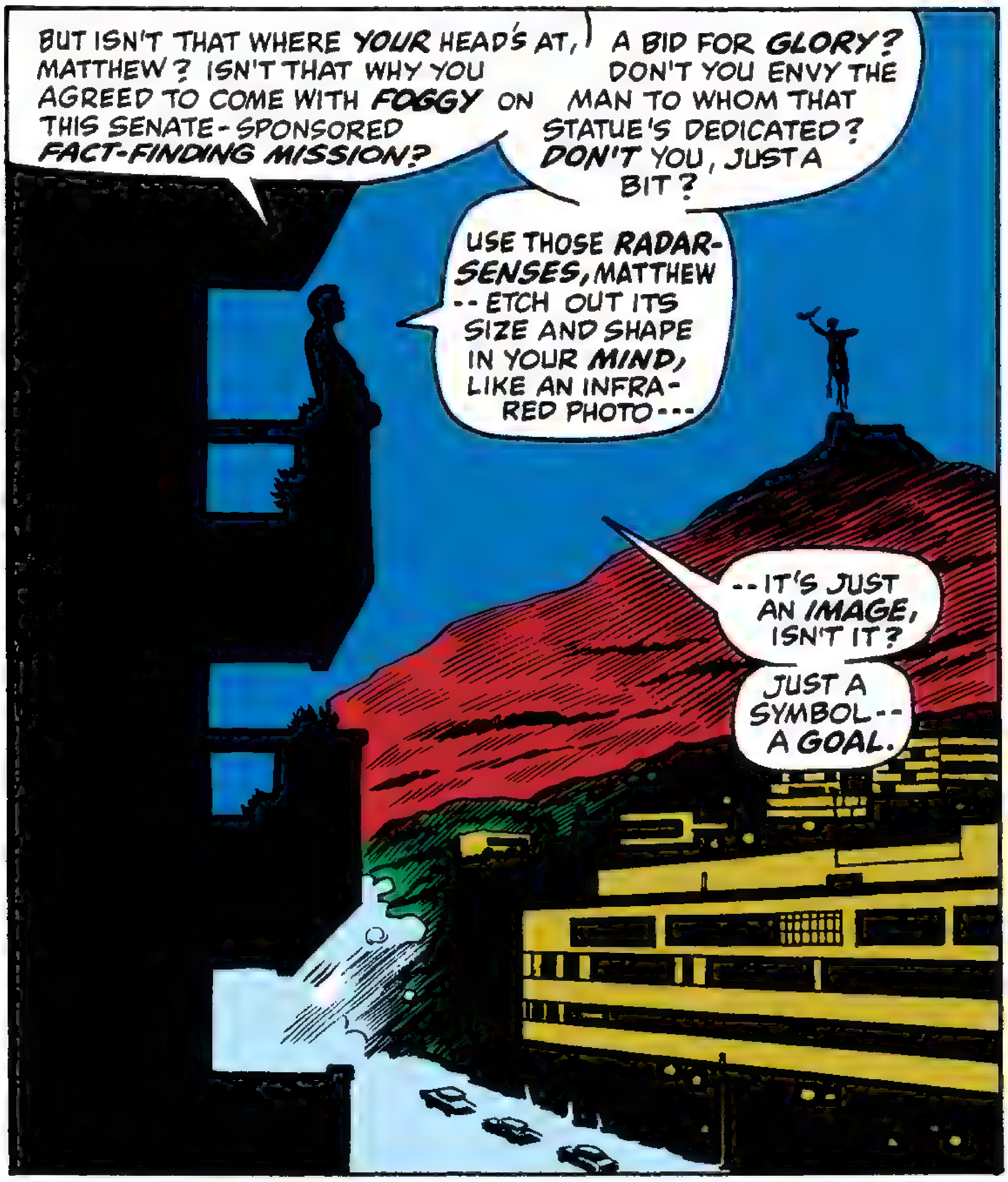

HOLD IT! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
MAYBE THAT'S A QUESTION *YOU* CAN ANSWER, BAYARD.
BUT FIRST-- SOMEBODY BETTER CALL AN *AMBULANCE!*
JONES-- DO AS HE SAYS.
YOU'RE PRETTY QUICK WITH *ORDERS*, MISTER-- AND WITH *NAMES*. I DIDN'T CATCH YOURS--?
BACK IN FUN CITY I'M KNOWN AS *DAREDEVIL*-- LAUGHINGLY CALLED THE *MAN WITHOUT FEAR!*
BUT THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE-- AND NEITHER IS MY REASON FOR BEING HERE. YOU CAN HELP *BOTH* OF US, BAYARD.
I'VE BEEN HEARING TALES OF A MAN NAMED *EL CONDOR*. WHO *IS* HE? HOW DOES HE FIT IN?
AS VILLIERS' TOP *AIDE*, YOU SHOULD KNOW IF *ANYBODY* AROUND HERE DOES.
EL CONDOR? HE'S NOTHING LESS THAN THE MOST *ROMANTIC* LATIN REVOLUTIONARY SINCE CHE GUEVARA.
TWO WEEKS AGO, HIS MEN KIDNAPPED THE *AMBASSADOR*-- VILLIERS TOOK HIS *PLACE*--
--AND I'LL LAY ODDS EL CONDOR'S BEHIND *TONIGHT'S* LITTLE SURPRISE PARTY, TOO.
BUT, WHAT GOOD ARE *THEORIES?* DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH *TIME* IS LOST BECAUSE OF *TALK?* VILLIERS IS MY *FRIEND*--
--A *GOOD* ONE. WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR SIX YEARS-- AND NOW *THIS*. IF HE DIES---
-- WELL, MISTER-- SUFFICE TO SAY I'M NOT GOING TO SIT ON MY *THUMBS* WHILE SOME PENCIL-PUSHER SHUFFLES *FILES*--!
TAKE IT *EASY*, BAYARD.
HERE COMES THAT *AMBULANCE*.
EEEEEEEEEE EE EE

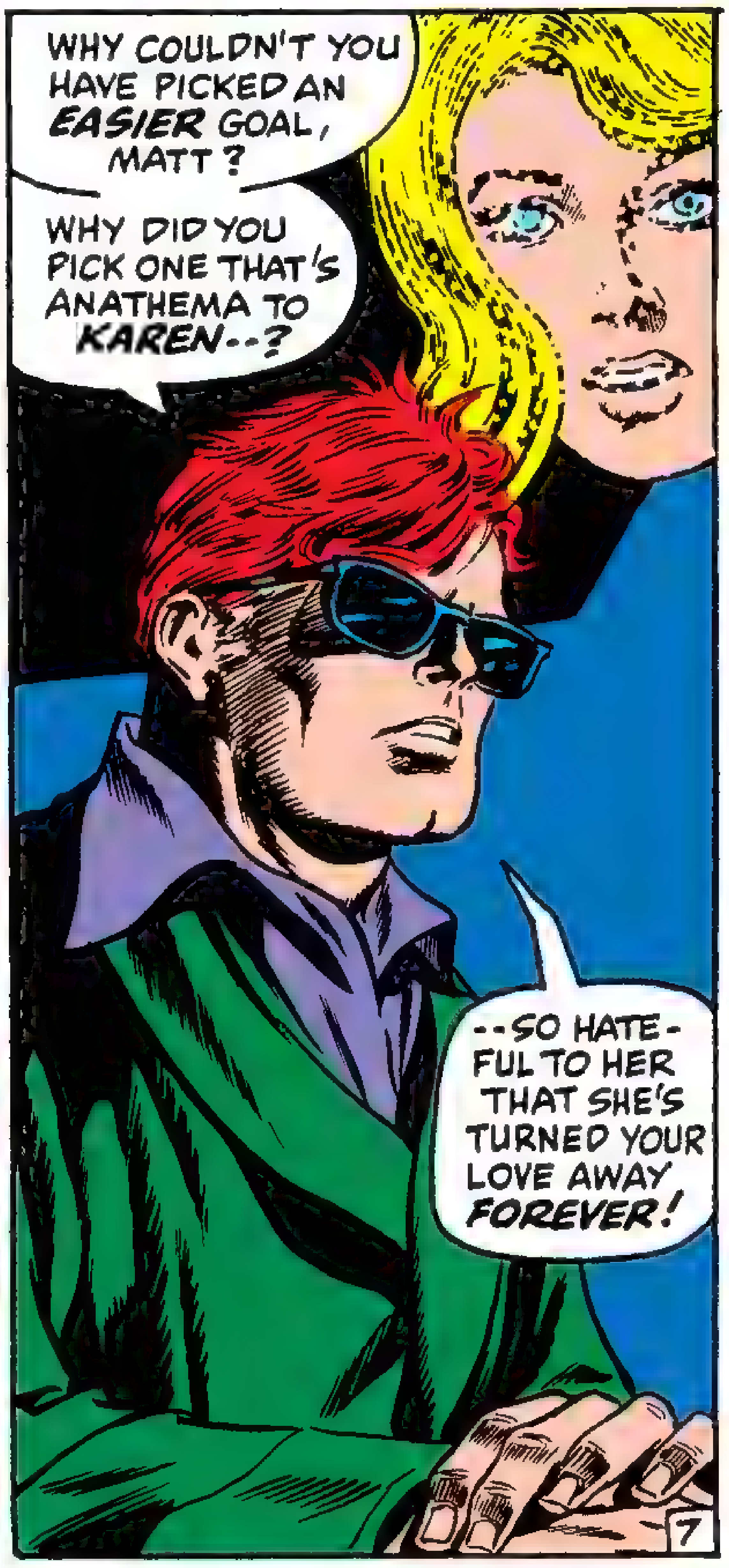

TAKE IT EASY? LOOK AGAIN, DAREDEVIL. THAT MAN'S PART OF MY LIFE!
IN A DUSTY LITTLE HELL LIKE THIS--A FRIEND CAN MEAN YOUR SANITY.
I'VE GIVEN THE FOREIGN SERVICE EIGHT YEARS OF MY LIFE--EIGHT GOOD YEARS.
I'M THROUGH PLAYING POCKET EXECUTIVE--
--ALWAYS WAITING FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO GIVE THE ORDER.
I'LL SEE YOU AROUND, MASKED MAN.
I'VE THINGS TO DO!
GOOD-NIGHT, BAYARD.
I CAN'T BLAME BAYARD FOR BEING UPSET--ALL OF THIS KIDNAPPING IS MAKING EVERYONE EDGY.
I JUST HOPE--HE DOESN'T DO SOMETHING REALLY CRACKERS.
WE KNOW, WE KNOW-- WHAT'S HORN-HEAD DOING SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR, RIGHT? WE'LL HAVE TO LET THE ANSWER TO THAT RIDE FOR A BIT WHILE WE SWITCH TO---
--A LONELY STRETCH OF DESERT JUST THREE MILES SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL, WHERE---
ONDALÉ, ONDALÉ!
THE GRINGO DOES NOT LOOK VERY WELL-- BEST WE SHOULD GET HIM TO CAMP, WHERE EL CONDOR'S MEDICOS CAN ATTEND TO HIM.
WHEN THE AMERICANS DISCOVER WHAT WE HAVE DONE, WE MAY ALL NEED THE MEDICOS.
--AND THE PADRE AS WELL!

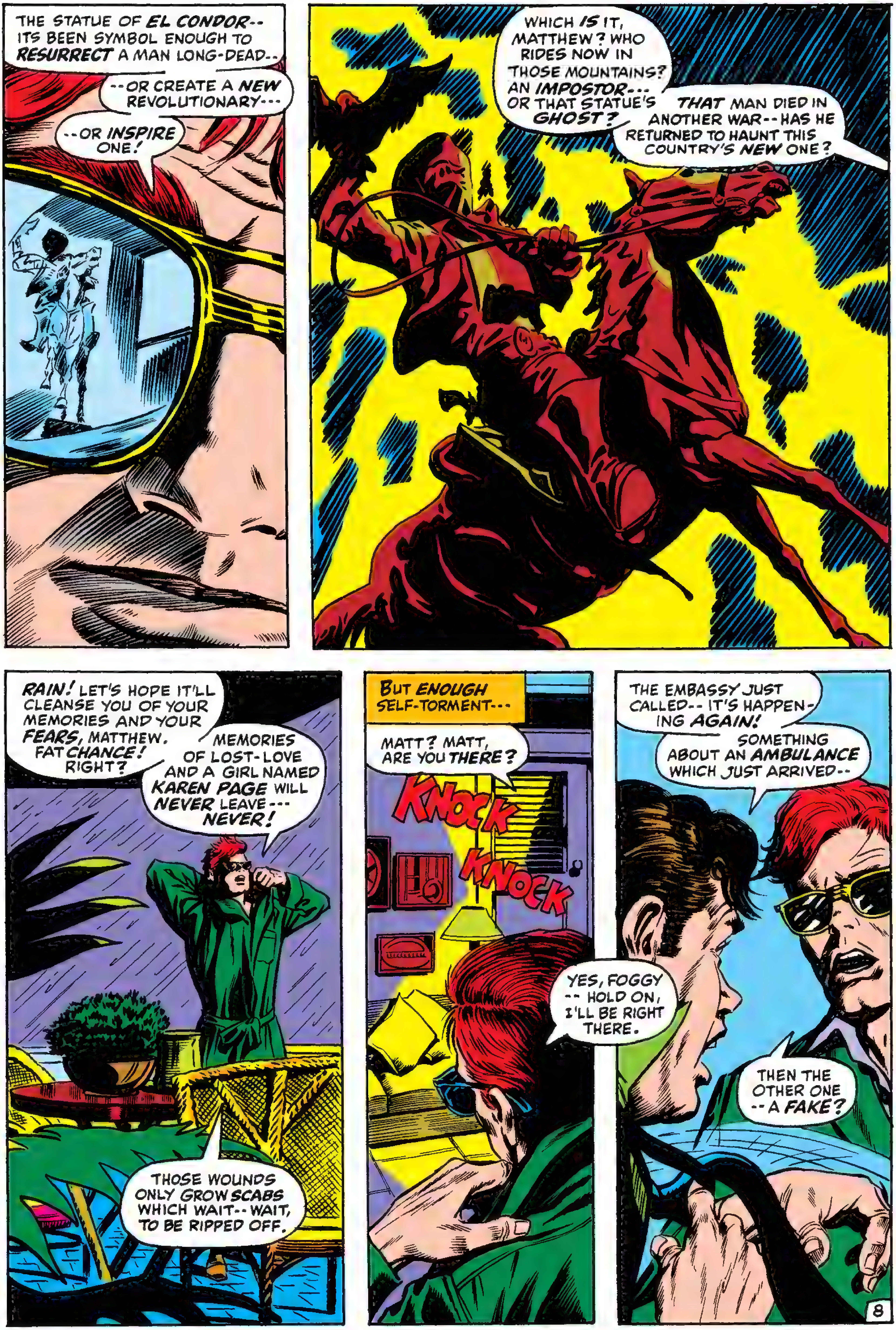

WATCH YOUR TONGUE, JUAN! EL CONDOR WOULD NOT TAKE LIGHT NOTICE OF YOUR FEARS. YOU MUST EVER REMEMBER--

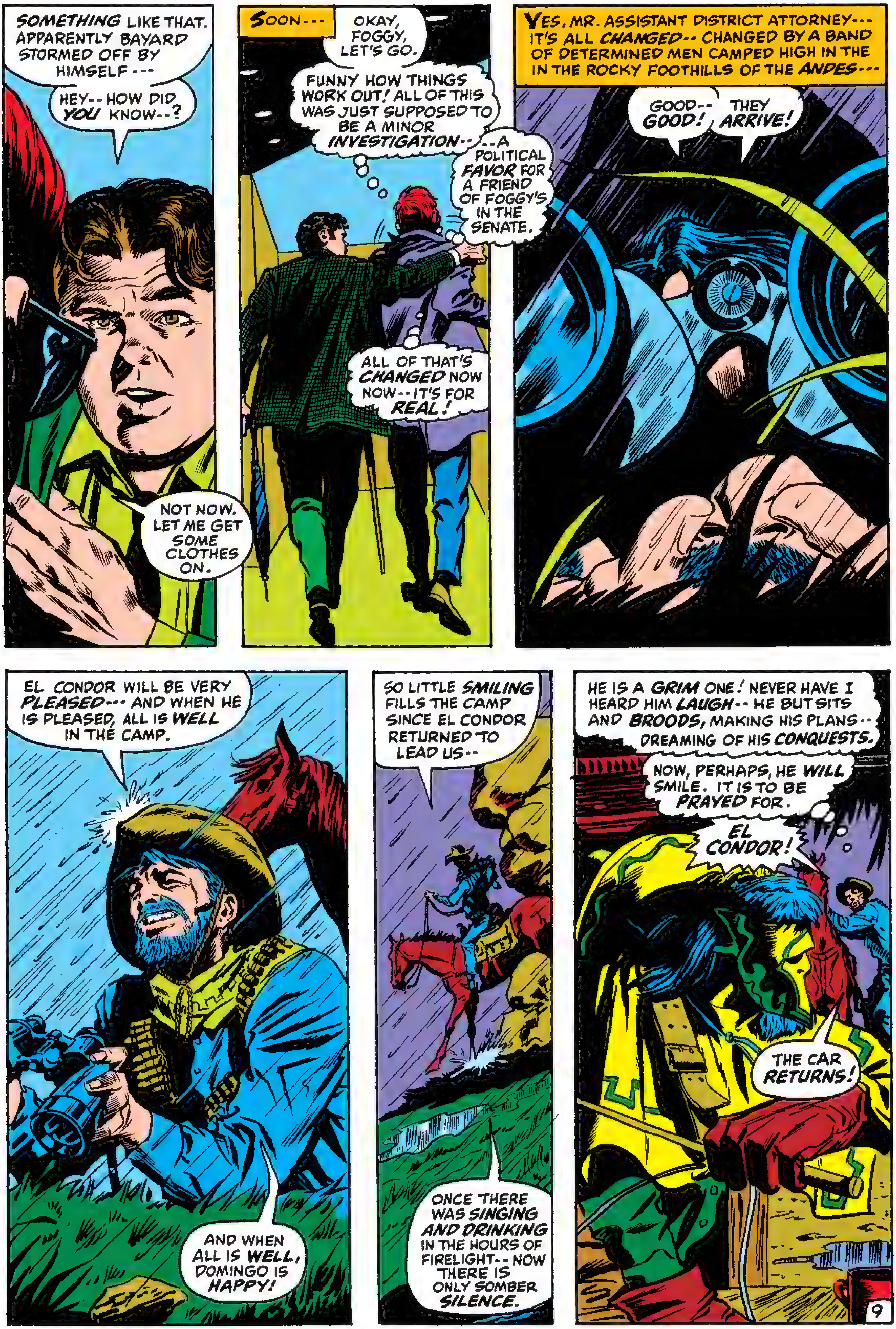

--IF ONE WISHES TO LIVE, ONE MUST WORSHIP EL CONDOR LIKE A GOD!
AND WITH THOSE THOUGHTS ECHOING OMINOUSLY IN OUR MINDS---

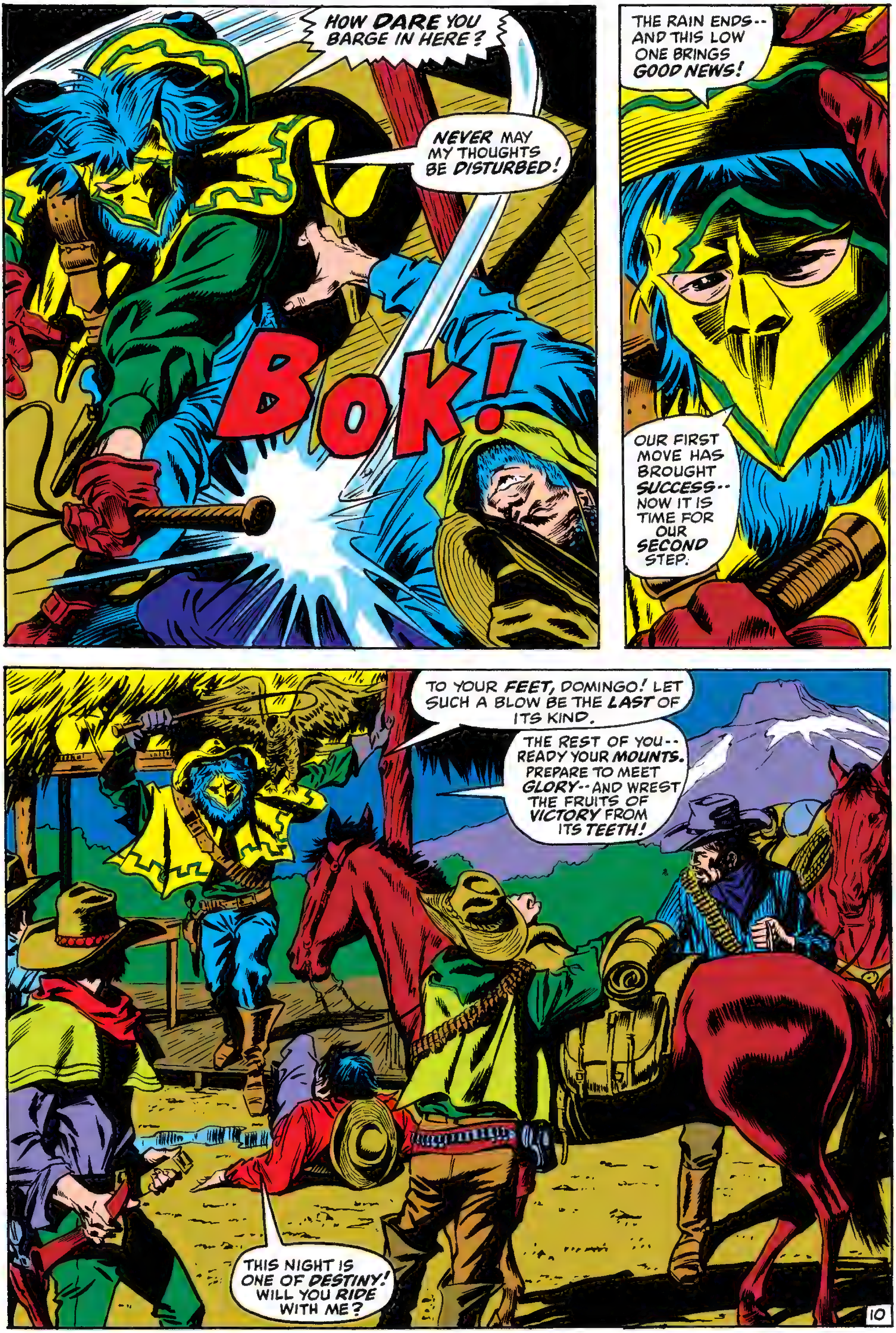

--WE'LL RETURN TO OUR DEEP-THINKING HERO, NOW CHANGED TO THE SIGHTLESS LAWYER, MATT MURDOCK---
KEITH BAYARD'S NOT A MAN TO STAND ASIDE AND WATCH OTHERS SEEK OUT THE GLORY-- OR THE BATTLE.
HE'S LIABLE TO DO SOMETHING FOOLISH AND SOMETHING TERRIBLY BRAVE!

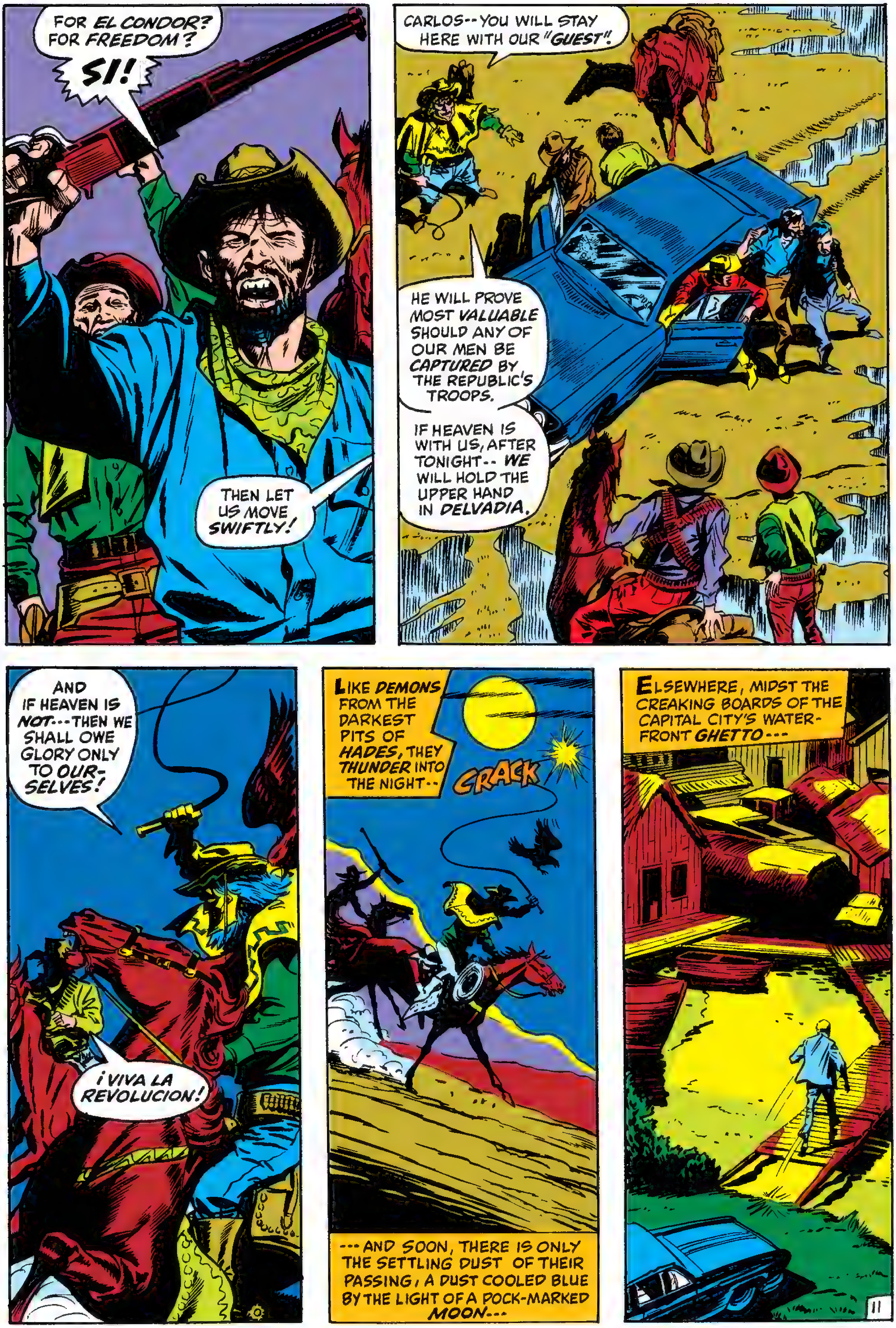

BUT ISN'T THAT WHERE YOUR HEAD'S AT, MATTHEW? ISN'T THAT WHY YOU AGREED TO COME WITH FOGGY ON THIS SENATE-SPONSORED FACT-FINDING MISSION?
A BID FOR GLORY? DON'T YOU ENVY THE MAN TO WHOM THAT STATUE'S DEDICATED? DON'T YOU, JUST A BIT?
USE THOSE RADAR-SENSES, MATTHEW --ETCH OUT ITS SIZE AND SHAPE IN YOUR MIND, LIKE AN INFRA-RED PHOTO---
--IT'S JUST AN IMAGE, ISN'T IT?
JUST A SYMBOL-- A GOAL.

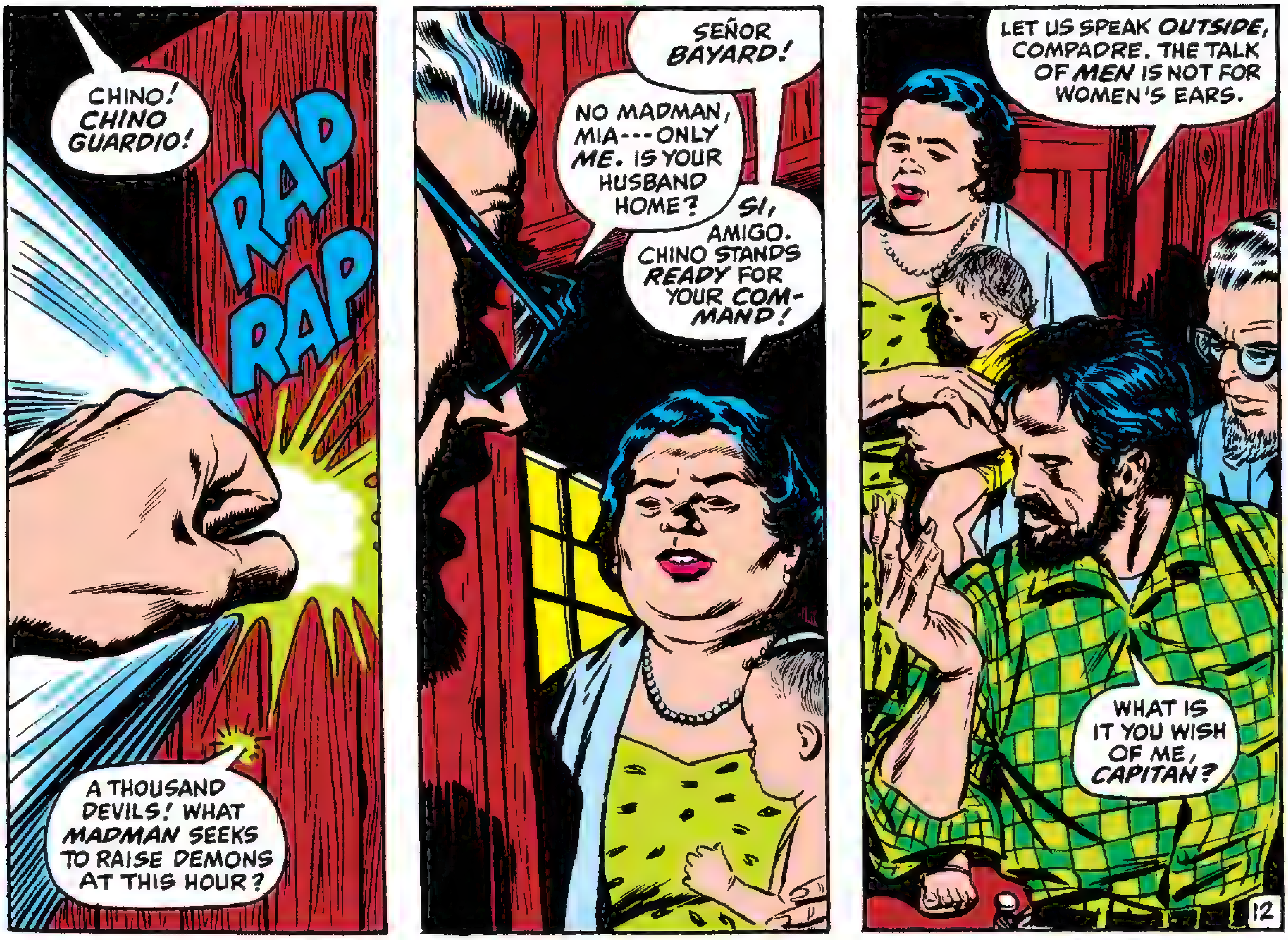

WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE PICKED AN EASIER GOAL, MATT?
WHY DID YOU PICK ONE THAT'S ANATHEMA TO KAREN--?
--SO HATEFUL TO HER THAT SHE'S TURNED YOUR LOVE AWAY FOREVER!

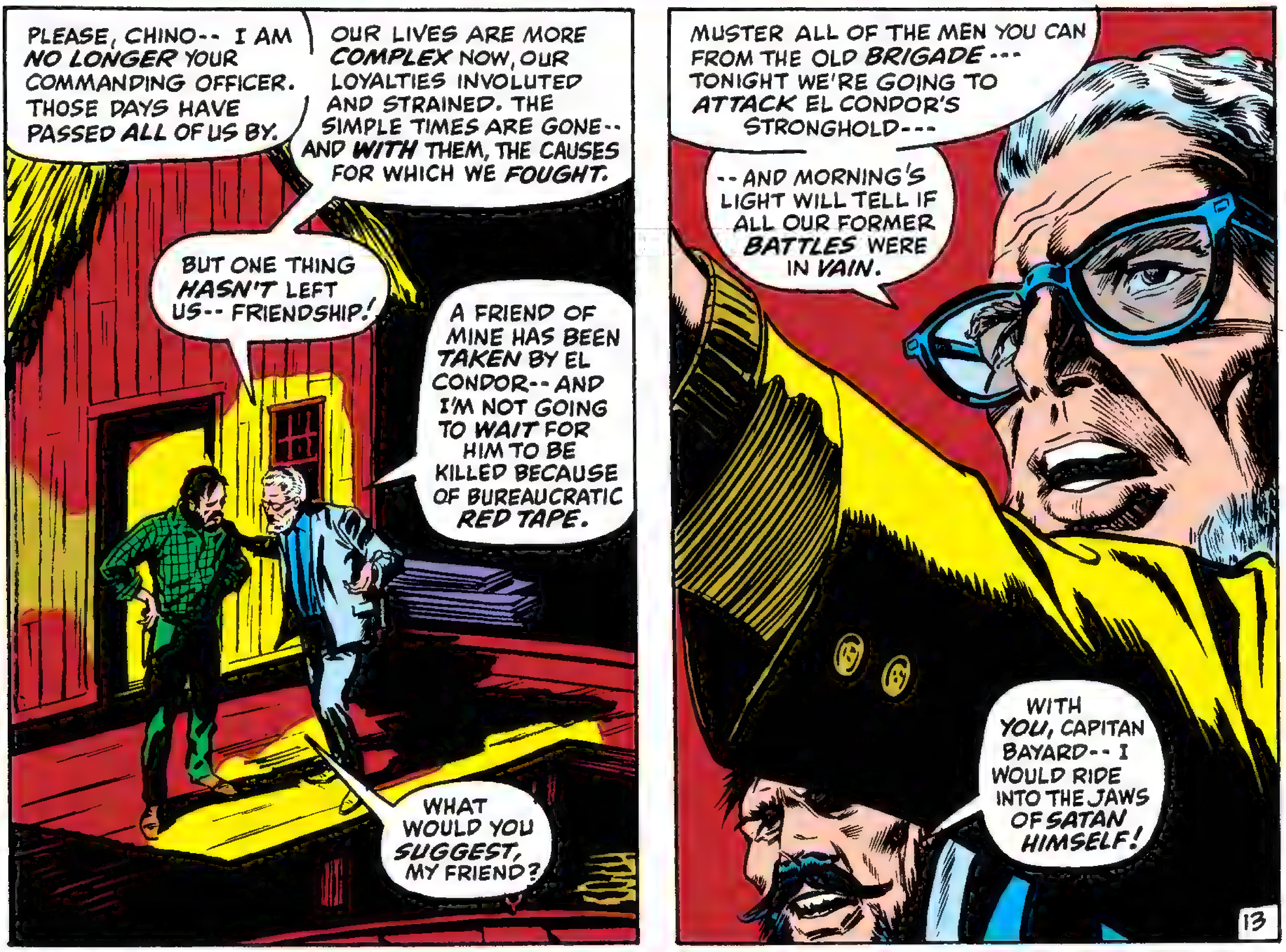

THE STATUE OF EL CONDOR-- ITS BEEN SYMBOL ENOUGH TO RESURRECT A MAN LONG-DEAD--
--OR CREATE A NEW REVOLUTIONARY---
--OR INSPIRE ONE!
WHICH IS IT, MATTHEW? WHO RIDES NOW IN THOSE MOUNTAINS? AN IMPOSTOR--- OR THAT STATUE'S GHOST?
THAT MAN DIED IN ANOTHER WAR--HAS HE RETURNED TO HAUNT THIS COUNTRY'S NEW ONE?
RAIN! LET'S HOPE IT'LL CLEANSE YOU OF YOUR MEMORIES AND YOUR FEARS, MATTHEW. FAT CHANCE! RIGHT?
MEMORIES OF LOST-LOVE AND A GIRL NAMED KAREN PAGE WILL NEVER LEAVE--- NEVER!
THOSE WOUNDS ONLY GROW SCABS WHICH WAIT--WAIT, TO BE RIPPED OFF.
BUT ENOUGH SELF-TORMENT---
MATT? MATT, ARE YOU THERE?
KNOCK KNOCK
YES, FOGGY -- HOLD ON, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
THE EMBASSY JUST CALLED-- IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
SOMETHING ABOUT AN AMBULANCE WHICH JUST ARRIVED--
THEN THE OTHER ONE --A FAKE?

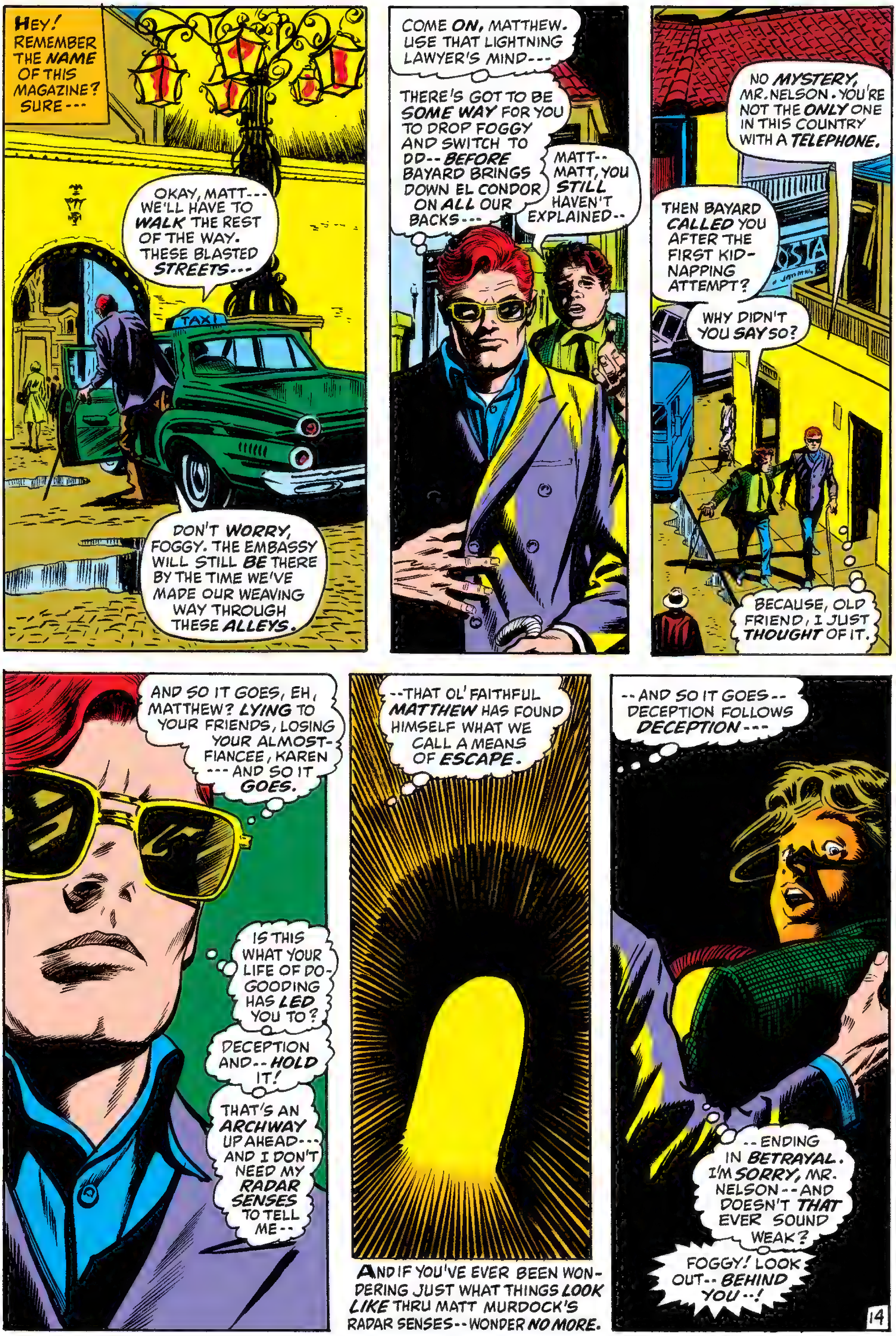

SOMETHING LIKE THAT. APPARENTLY BAYARD STORMED OFF BY HIMSELF---
HEY-- HOW DID YOU KNOW--?
NOT NOW. LET ME GET SOME CLOTHES ON.
SOON---
OKAY, FOGGY, LET'S GO.
FUNNY HOW THINGS WORK OUT! ALL OF THIS WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO BE A MINOR INVESTIGATION-- ..A POLITICAL FAVOR FOR A FRIEND OF FOGGY'S IN THE SENATE.
ALL OF THAT'S CHANGED NOW NOW--IT'S FOR REAL!
YES, MR. ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY--- IT'S ALL CHANGED-- CHANGED BY A BAND OF DETERMINED MEN CAMPED HIGH IN THE IN THE ROCKY FOOTHILLS OF THE ANDES---
GOOD-- GOOD!
THEY ARRIVE!
EL CONDOR WILL BE VERY PLEASED--- AND WHEN HE IS PLEASED, ALL IS WELL IN THE CAMP.
AND WHEN ALL IS WELL, DOMINGO IS HAPPY!
SO LITTLE SMILING FILLS THE CAMP SINCE EL CONDOR RETURNED TO LEAD US--
ONCE THERE WAS SINGING AND DRINKING IN THE HOURS OF FIRELIGHT-- NOW THERE IS ONLY SOMBER SILENCE.
HE IS A GRIM ONE! NEVER HAVE I HEARD HIM LAUGH-- HE BUT SITS AND BROODS, MAKING HIS PLANS-- DREAMING OF HIS CONQUESTS.
NOW, PERHAPS, HE WILL SMILE. IT IS TO BE PRAYED FOR.
EL CONDOR!
THE CAR RETURNS!

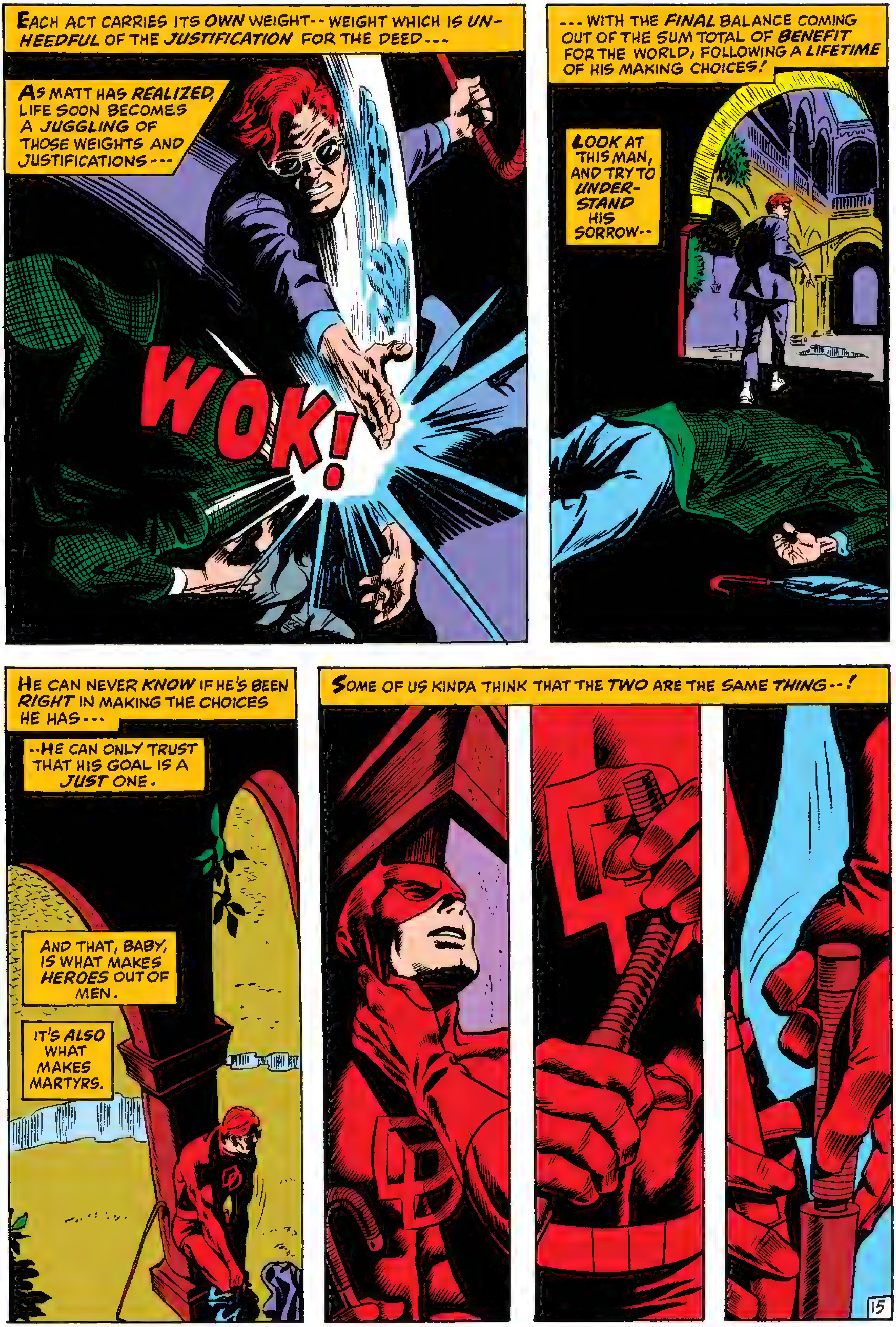

HOW DARE YOU BARGE IN HERE?
NEVER MAY MY THOUGHTS BE DISTURBED!
BOK!
THE RAIN ENDS-- AND THIS LOW ONE BRINGS GOOD NEWS!
OUR FIRST MOVE HAS BROUGHT SUCCESS-- NOW IT IS TIME FOR OUR SECOND STEP.
TO YOUR FEET, DOMINGO! LET SUCH A BLOW BE THE LAST OF ITS KIND.
THE REST OF YOU-- READY YOUR MOUNTS. PREPARE TO MEET GLORY-- AND WREST THE FRUITS OF VICTORY FROM ITS TEETH!
THIS NIGHT IS ONE OF DESTINY! WILL YOU RIDE WITH ME?

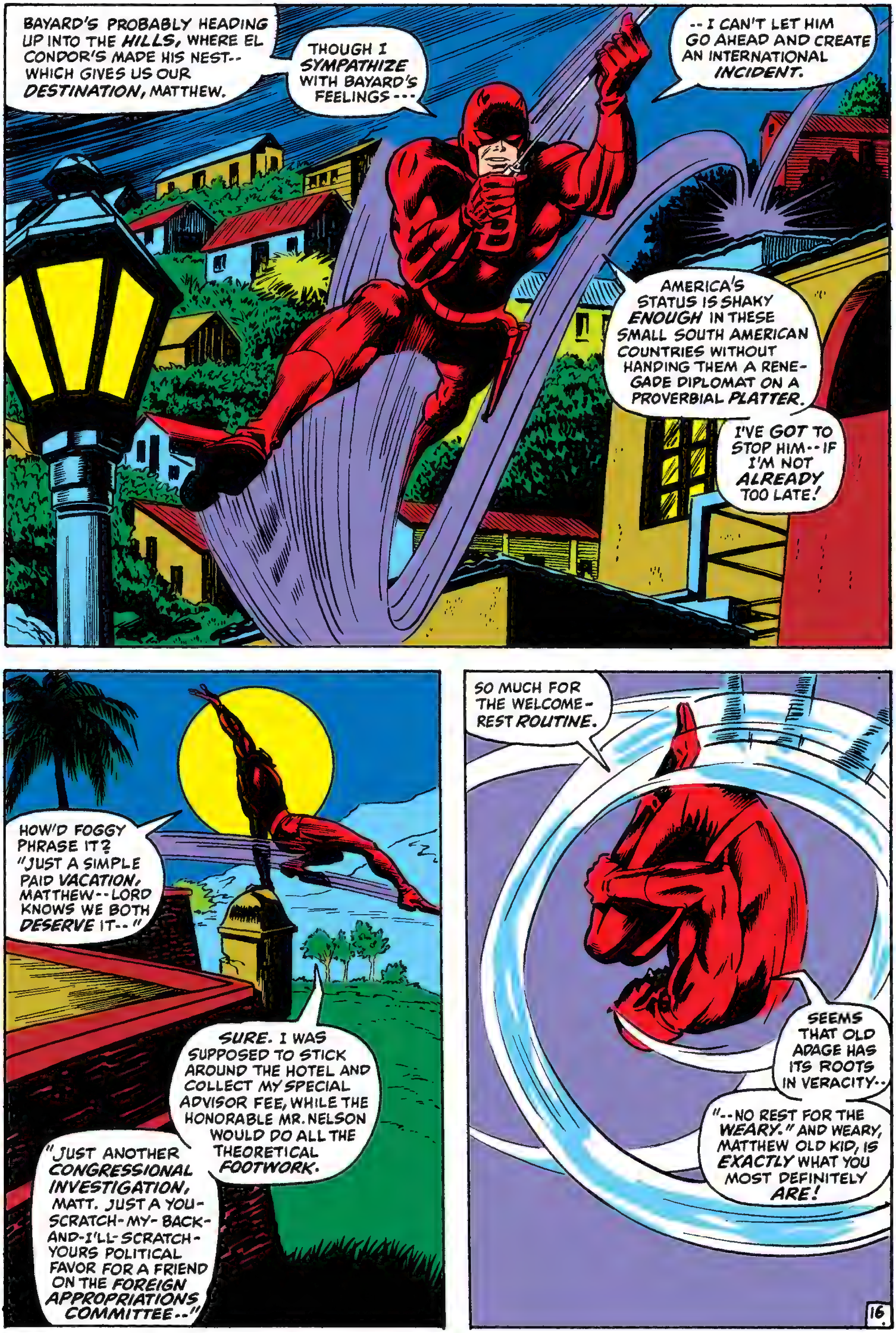

FOR *EL CONDOR?* FOR *FREEDOM?*
SI!
THEN LET US MOVE *SWIFTLY!*
CARLOS--YOU WILL STAY HERE WITH OUR *"GUEST"*.
HE WILL PROVE MOST *VALUABLE* SHOULD ANY OF OUR MEN BE *CAPTURED* BY THE REPUBLIC'S TROOPS.
IF HEAVEN IS WITH US, AFTER TONIGHT-- *WE* WILL HOLD THE UPPER HAND IN *DELVADIA*.
AND IF HEAVEN IS *NOT*--THEN WE SHALL OWE GLORY ONLY TO *OUR-SELVES!*
¡*VIVA LA REVOLUCION!*
LIKE *DEMONS* FROM THE DARKEST PITS OF *HADES*, THEY *THUNDER* INTO THE NIGHT--
CRACK
---AND SOON, THERE IS ONLY THE SETTLING DUST OF THEIR PASSING; A DUST COOLED BLUE BY THE LIGHT OF A POCK-MARKED *MOON*---
ELSEWHERE, MIDST THE CREAKING BOARDS OF THE CAPITAL CITY'S WATER-FRONT *GHETTO*---

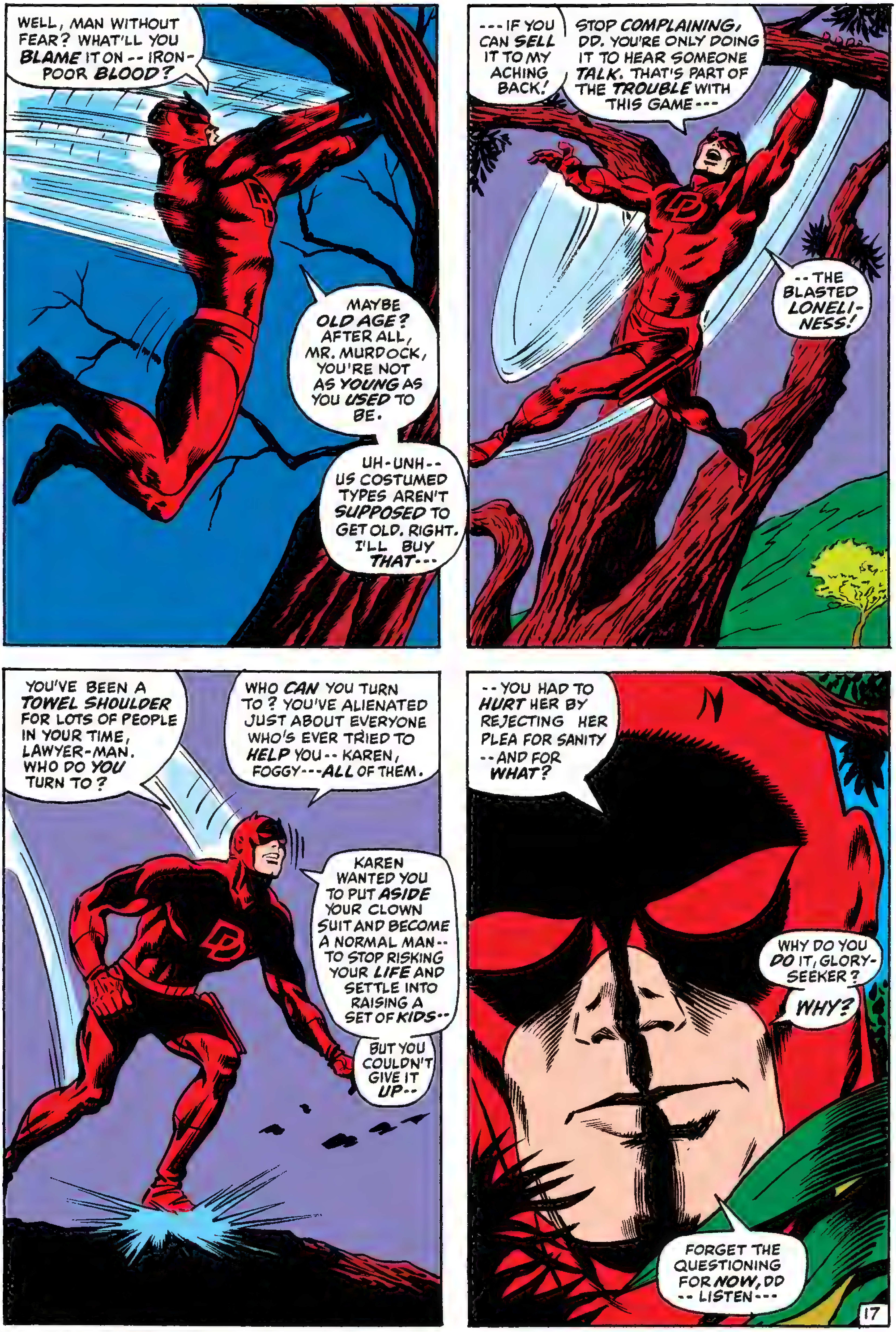

CHINO! CHINO GUARDIO!
RAP RAP
A THOUSAND DEVILS! WHAT MADMAN SEEKS TO RAISE DEMONS AT THIS HOUR?
SEÑOR BAYARD!
NO MADMAN, MIA--- ONLY ME. IS YOUR HUSBAND HOME?
SI, AMIGO. CHINO STANDS READY FOR YOUR COMMAND!
LET US SPEAK OUTSIDE, COMPADRE. THE TALK OF MEN IS NOT FOR WOMEN'S EARS.
WHAT IS IT YOU WISH OF ME, CAPITAN?

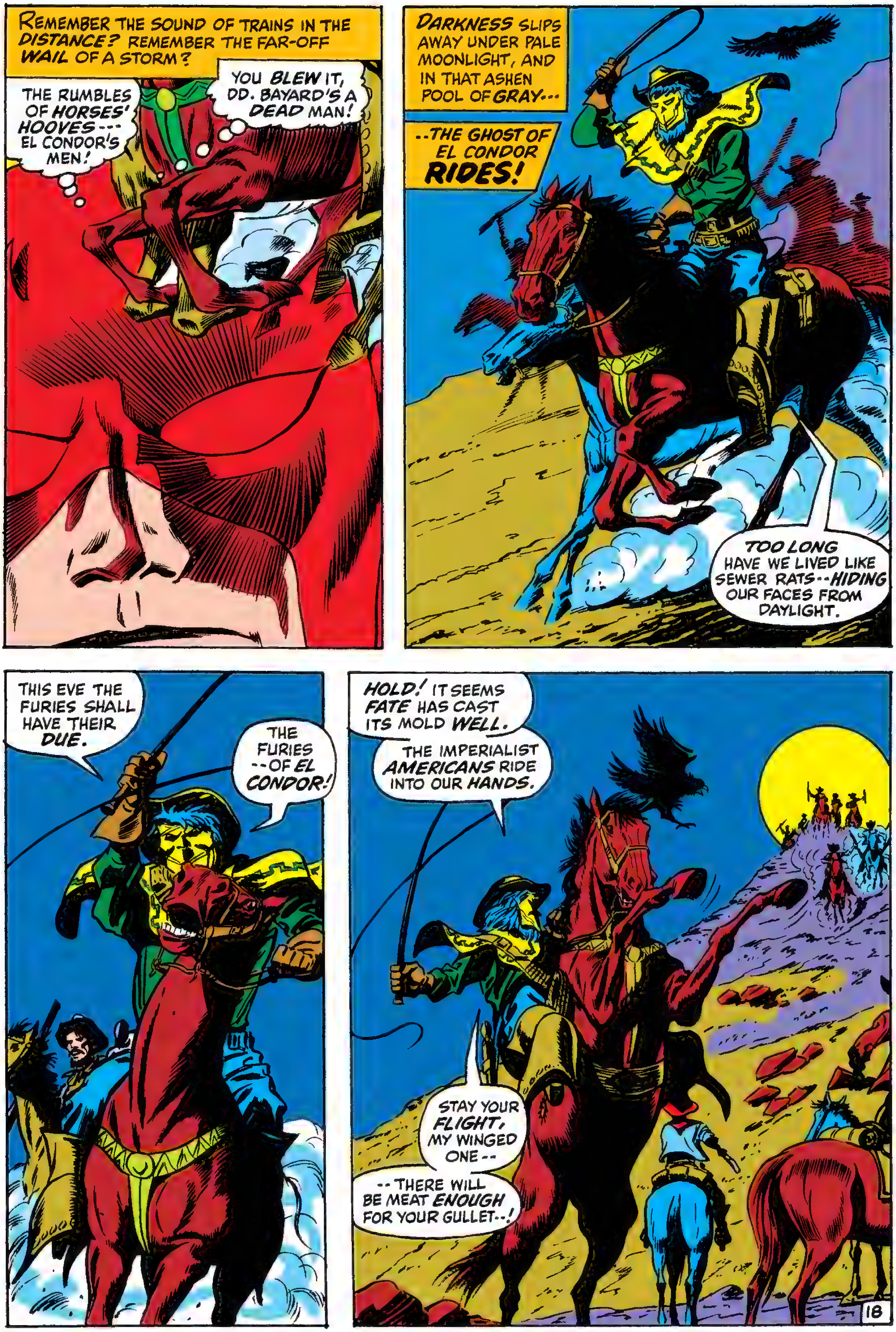

PLEASE, CHINO-- I AM NO LONGER YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER. THOSE DAYS HAVE PASSED ALL OF US BY.
OUR LIVES ARE MORE COMPLEX NOW, OUR LOYALTIES INVOLUTED AND STRAINED. THE SIMPLE TIMES ARE GONE-- AND WITH THEM, THE CAUSES FOR WHICH WE FOUGHT.
BUT ONE THING HASN'T LEFT US-- FRIENDSHIP!
A FRIEND OF MINE HAS BEEN TAKEN BY EL CONDOR-- AND I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR HIM TO BE KILLED BECAUSE OF BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE.
WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST, MY FRIEND?
MUSTER ALL OF THE MEN YOU CAN FROM THE OLD BRIGADE--- TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO ATTACK EL CONDOR'S STRONGHOLD---
-- AND MORNING'S LIGHT WILL TELL IF ALL OUR FORMER BATTLES WERE IN VAIN.
WITH YOU, CAPITAN BAYARD-- I WOULD RIDE INTO THE JAWS OF SATAN HIMSELF!

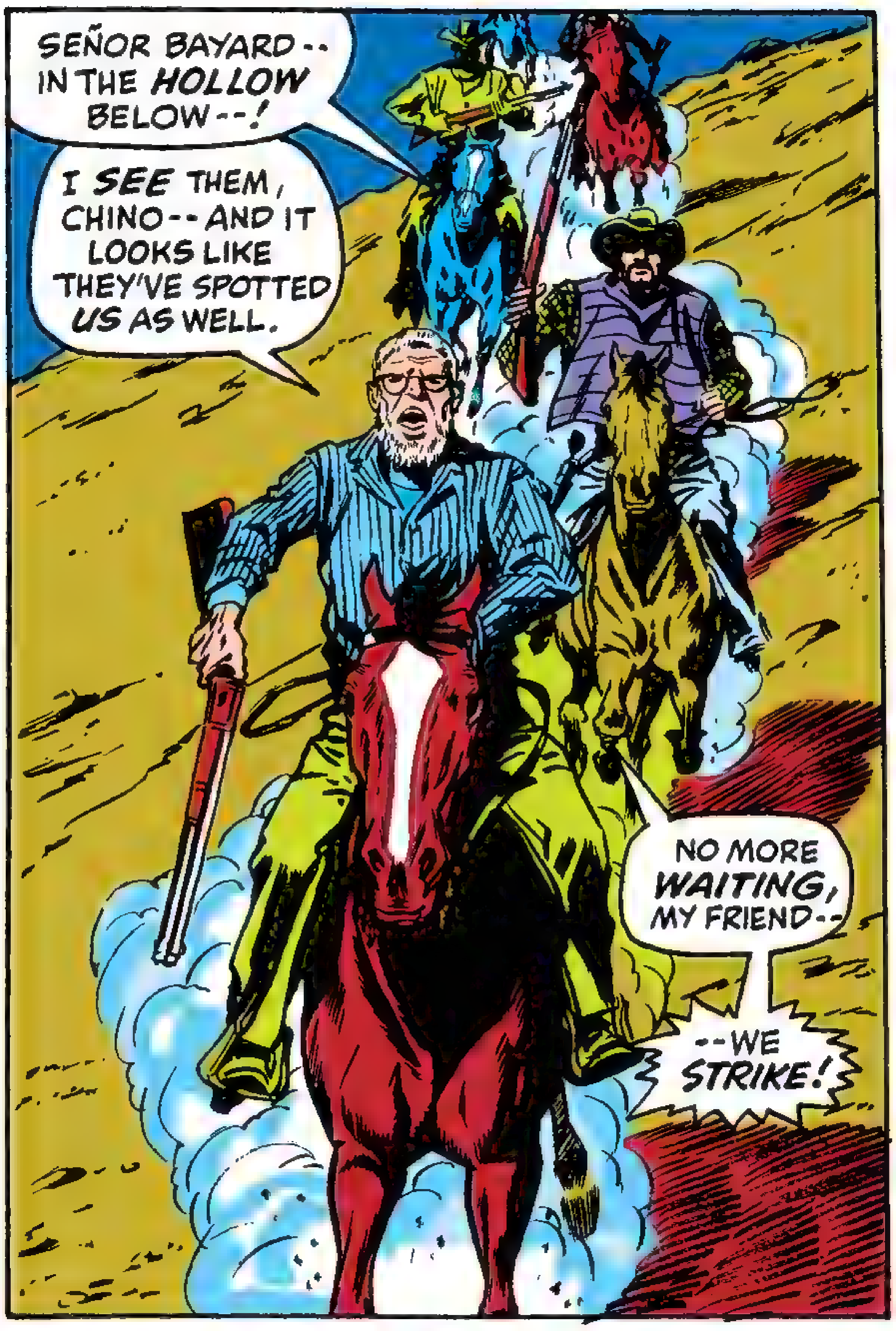

HEY! REMEMBER THE NAME OF THIS MAGAZINE? SURE---
OKAY, MATT--- WE'LL HAVE TO WALK THE REST OF THE WAY. THESE BLASTED STREETS---
TAXI
DON'T WORRY, FOGGY. THE EMBASSY WILL STILL BE THERE BY THE TIME WE'VE MADE OUR WEAVING WAY THROUGH THESE ALLEYS.
COME ON, MATTHEW. USE THAT LIGHTNING LAWYER'S MIND---
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY FOR YOU TO DROP FOGGY AND SWITCH TO DD--BEFORE BAYARD BRINGS DOWN EL CONDOR ON ALL OUR BACKS---
MATT-- MATT, YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED--
NO MYSTERY, MR. NELSON. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THIS COUNTRY WITH A TELEPHONE.
THEN BAYARD CALLED YOU AFTER THE FIRST KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
BECAUSE, OLD FRIEND, I JUST THOUGHT OF IT.
AND SO IT GOES, EH, MATTHEW? LYING TO YOUR FRIENDS, LOSING YOUR ALMOST-FIANCEE, KAREN --- AND SO IT GOES.
IS THIS WHAT YOUR LIFE OF DO-GOODING HAS LED YOU TO?
DECEPTION AND--HOLD IT!
THAT'S AN ARCHWAY UP AHEAD--- AND I DON'T NEED MY RADAR SENSES TO TELL ME--
--THAT OL' FAITHFUL MATTHEW HAS FOUND HIMSELF WHAT WE CALL A MEANS OF ESCAPE.
AND IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN WONDERING JUST WHAT THINGS LOOK LIKE THRU MATT MURDOCK'S RADAR SENSES--WONDER NO MORE.
--AND SO IT GOES-- DECEPTION FOLLOWS DECEPTION---
--ENDING IN BETRAYAL. I'M SORRY, MR. NELSON--AND DOESN'T THAT EVER SOUND WEAK?
FOGGY! LOOK OUT--BEHIND YOU--!

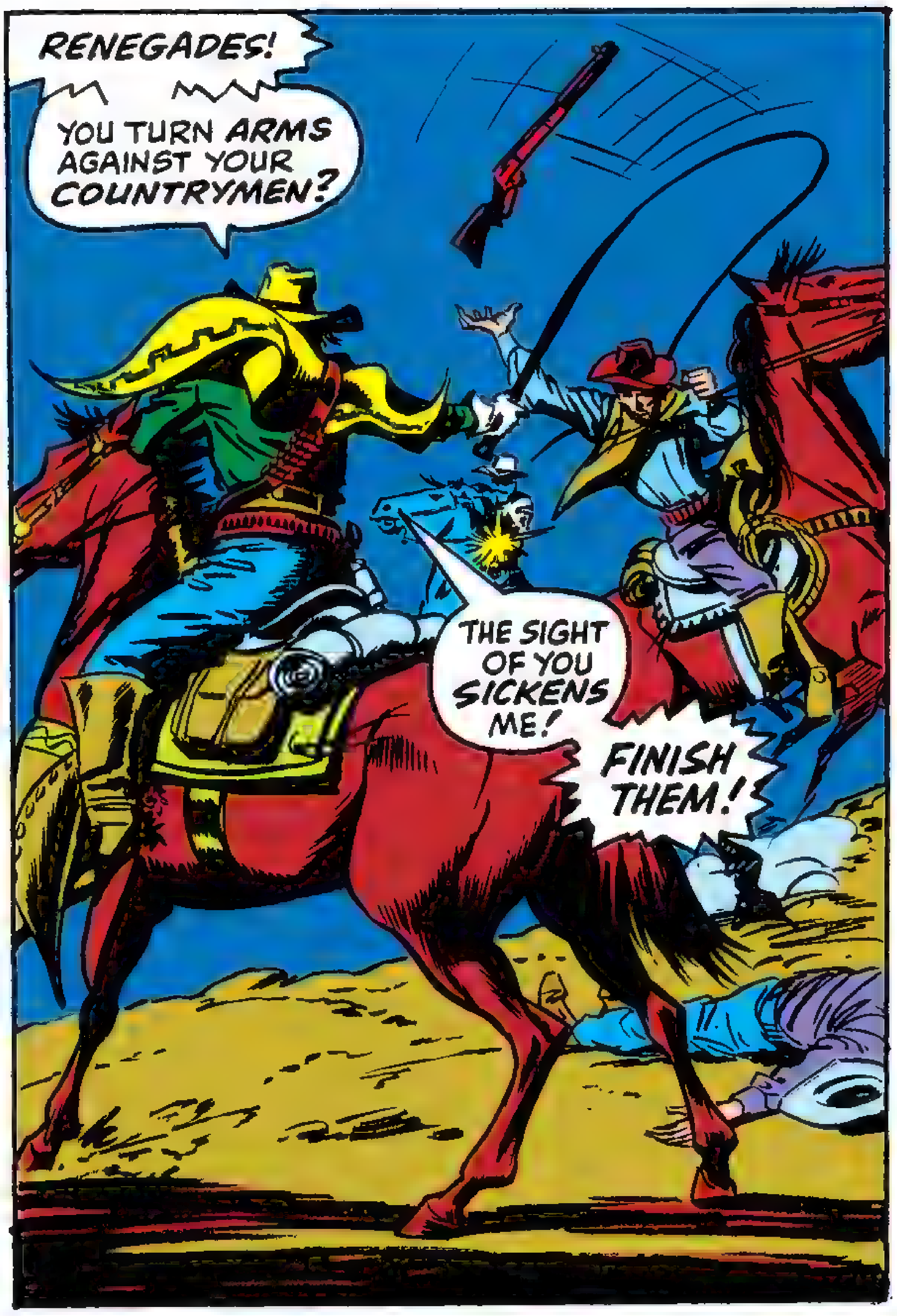

EACH ACT CARRIES ITS OWN WEIGHT-- WEIGHT WHICH IS UNHEEDFUL OF THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DEED---
AS MATT HAS REALIZED, LIFE SOON BECOMES A JUGGLING OF THOSE WEIGHTS AND JUSTIFICATIONS---
WOK!
---WITH THE FINAL BALANCE COMING OUT OF THE SUM TOTAL OF BENEFIT FOR THE WORLD, FOLLOWING A LIFETIME OF HIS MAKING CHOICES!
LOOK AT THIS MAN, AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND HIS SORROW--
HE CAN NEVER KNOW IF HE'S BEEN RIGHT IN MAKING THE CHOICES HE HAS---
--HE CAN ONLY TRUST THAT HIS GOAL IS A JUST ONE.
AND THAT, BABY, IS WHAT MAKES HEROES OUT OF MEN.
IT'S ALSO WHAT MAKES MARTYRS.
SOME OF US KINDA THINK THAT THE TWO ARE THE SAME THING--!

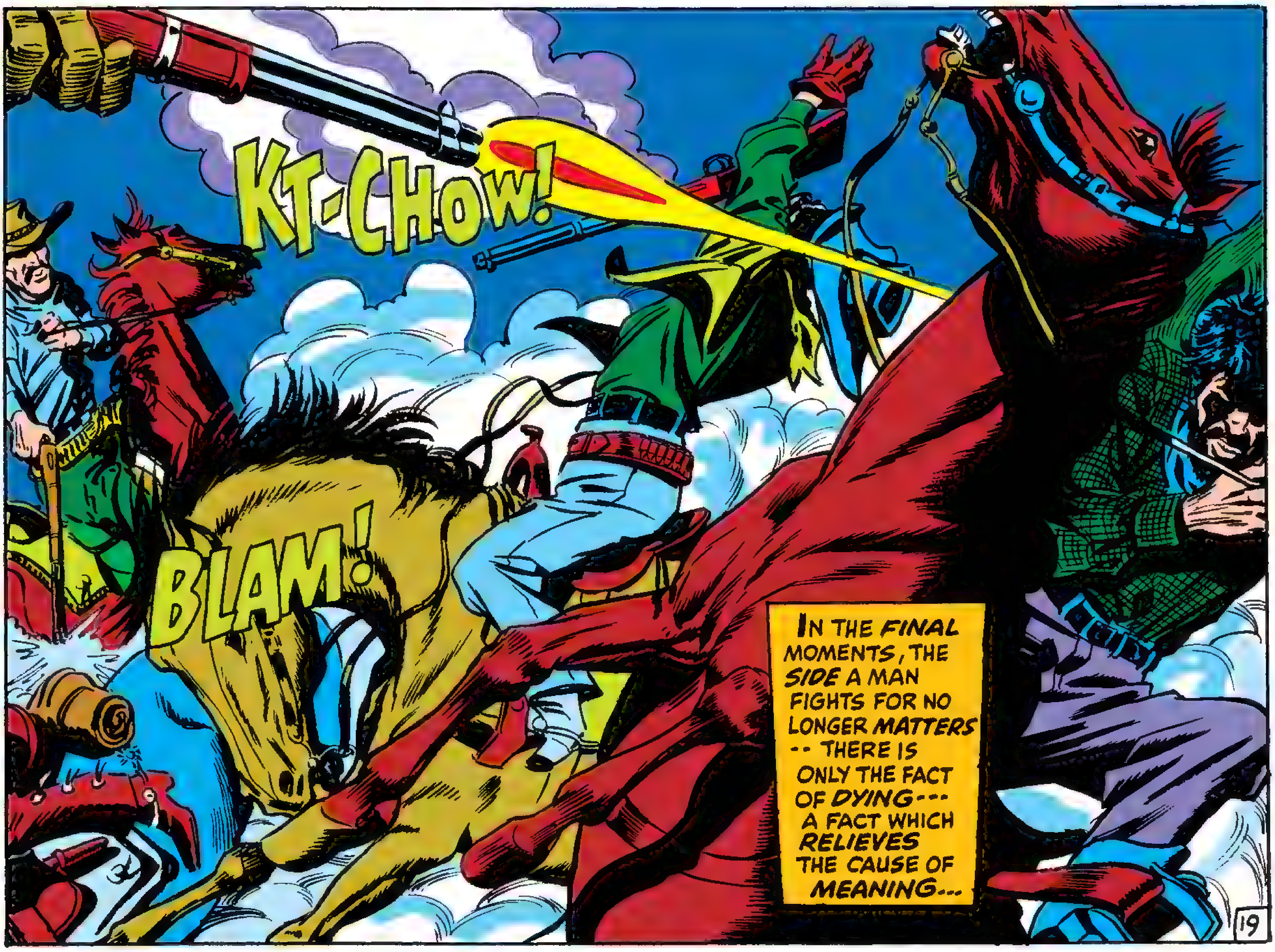

BAYARD'S PROBABLY HEADING UP INTO THE *HILLS,* WHERE EL CONDOR'S MADE HIS NEST-- WHICH GIVES US OUR *DESTINATION,* MATTHEW.
THOUGH I *SYMPATHIZE* WITH BAYARD'S FEELINGS---
--I CAN'T LET HIM GO AHEAD AND CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL *INCIDENT.*
AMERICA'S STATUS IS SHAKY *ENOUGH* IN THESE SMALL SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITHOUT HANDING THEM A RENEGADE DIPLOMAT ON A PROVERBIAL *PLATTER.*
I'VE *GOT* TO STOP HIM--IF I'M NOT *ALREADY* TOO LATE!
HOW'D FOGGY PHRASE IT? "JUST A SIMPLE PAID *VACATION,* MATTHEW--LORD KNOWS WE BOTH *DESERVE* IT--"
SURE. I WAS SUPPOSED TO STICK AROUND THE HOTEL AND COLLECT MY SPECIAL ADVISOR FEE, WHILE THE HONORABLE MR. NELSON WOULD DO ALL THE THEORETICAL *FOOTWORK.*
"JUST ANOTHER *CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION,* MATT. JUST A YOU-SCRATCH-MY-BACK-AND-I'LL-SCRATCH-YOURS POLITICAL FAVOR FOR A FRIEND ON THE *FOREIGN APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE--"*
SO MUCH FOR THE WELCOME-REST *ROUTINE.*
SEEMS THAT OLD ADAGE HAS ITS ROOTS IN VERACITY..
"--NO REST FOR THE *WEARY."* AND WEARY, MATTHEW OLD KID, IS *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU MOST DEFINITELY *ARE!*

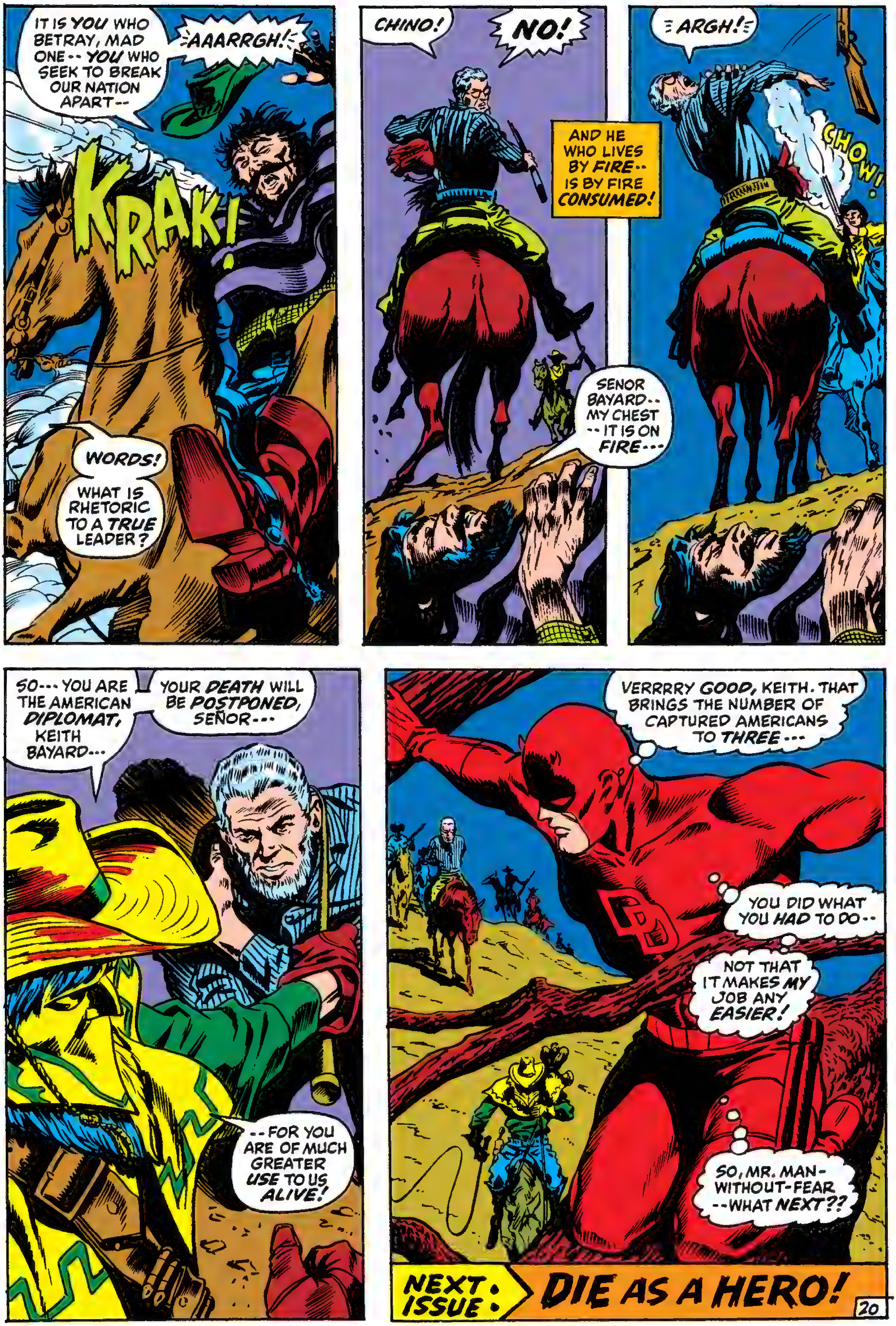

WELL, MAN WITHOUT FEAR? WHAT'LL YOU BLAME IT ON -- IRON-POOR BLOOD?
MAYBE OLD AGE? AFTER ALL, MR. MURDOCK, YOU'RE NOT AS YOUNG AS YOU USED TO BE.
UH-UNH -- US COSTUMED TYPES AREN'T SUPPOSED TO GET OLD, RIGHT. I'LL BUY THAT---
---IF YOU CAN SELL IT TO MY ACHING BACK!
STOP COMPLAINING, DD. YOU'RE ONLY DOING IT TO HEAR SOMEONE TALK. THAT'S PART OF THE TROUBLE WITH THIS GAME---
--THE BLASTED LONELINESS!
YOU'VE BEEN A TOWEL SHOULDER FOR LOTS OF PEOPLE IN YOUR TIME, LAWYER-MAN. WHO DO YOU TURN TO?
WHO CAN YOU TURN TO? YOU'VE ALIENATED JUST ABOUT EVERYONE WHO'S EVER TRIED TO HELP YOU -- KAREN, FOGGY---ALL OF THEM.
KAREN WANTED YOU TO PUT ASIDE YOUR CLOWN SUIT AND BECOME A NORMAL MAN -- TO STOP RISKING YOUR LIFE AND SETTLE INTO RAISING A SET OF KIDS--
BUT YOU COULDN'T GIVE IT UP--
--YOU HAD TO HURT HER BY REJECTING HER PLEA FOR SANITY -- AND FOR WHAT?
WHY DO YOU DO IT, GLORY-SEEKER?
WHY?
FORGET THE QUESTIONING FOR NOW, DD -- LISTEN---


REMEMBER THE SOUND OF TRAINS IN THE DISTANCE? REMEMBER THE FAR-OFF WAIL OF A STORM?
THE RUMBLES OF HORSES' HOOVES--- EL CONDOR'S MEN!
YOU BLEW IT, OD. BAYARD'S A DEAD MAN!
DARKNESS SLIPS AWAY UNDER PALE MOONLIGHT, AND IN THAT ASHEN POOL OF GRAY...
..THE GHOST OF EL CONDOR RIDES!
TOO LONG HAVE WE LIVED LIKE SEWER RATS--HIDING OUR FACES FROM DAYLIGHT.
THIS EVE THE FURIES SHALL HAVE THEIR DUE.
THE FURIES --OF EL CONDOR!
HOLD! IT SEEMS FATE HAS CAST ITS MOLD WELL.
THE IMPERIALIST AMERICANS RIDE INTO OUR HANDS.
STAY YOUR FLIGHT, MY WINGED ONE --
-- THERE WILL BE MEAT ENOUGH FOR YOUR GULLET--!


SEÑOR BAYARD -- IN THE *HOLLOW* BELOW --!
I *SEE* THEM, CHINO -- AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE SPOTTED *US* AS WELL.
NO MORE *WAITING*, MY FRIEND --
-- WE *STRIKE!*


RENEGADES!
YOU TURN *ARMS* AGAINST YOUR *COUNTRYMEN?*
THE SIGHT OF YOU *SICKENS* ME!
FINISH THEM!

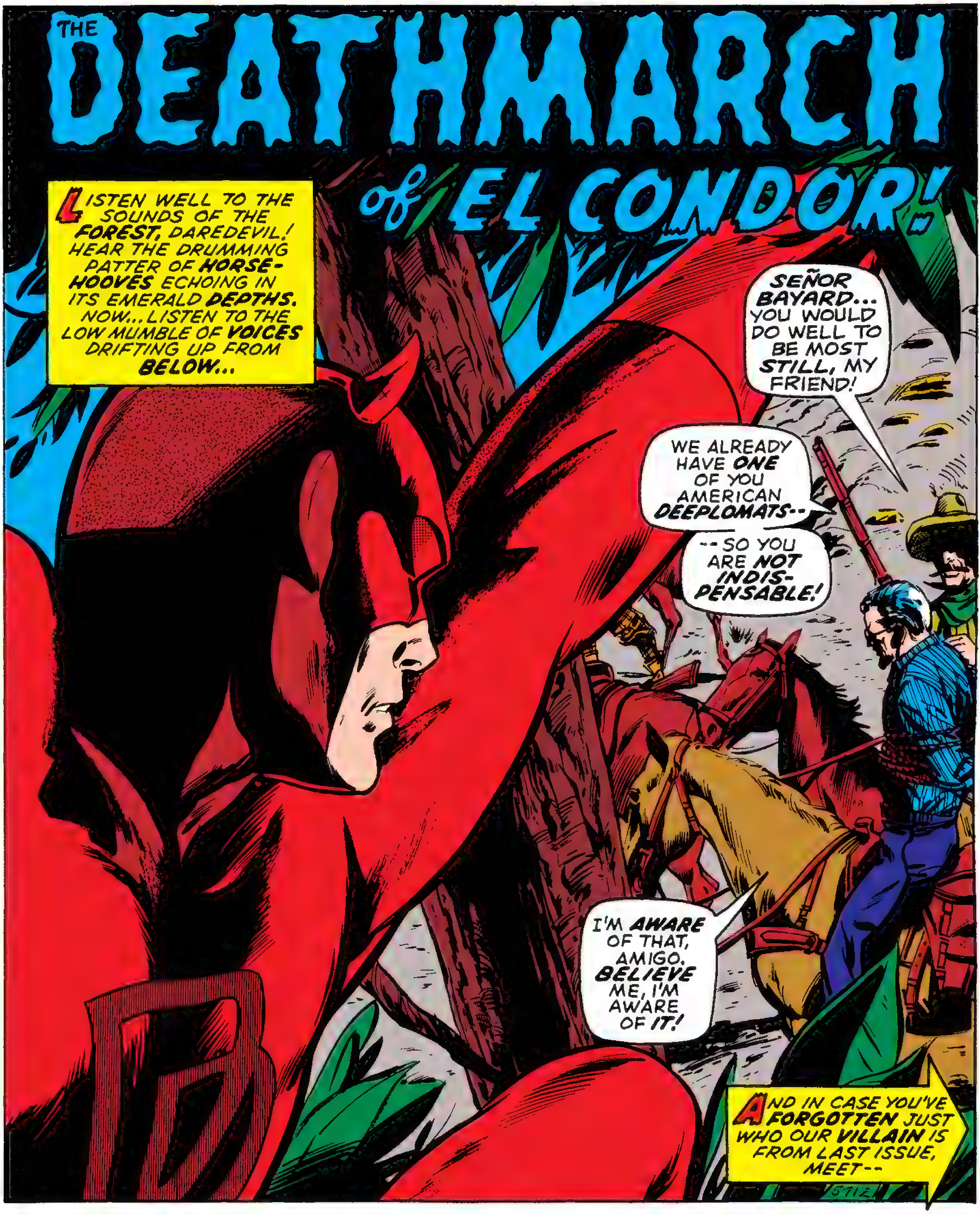

KT-CHOW!
BLAM!
IN THE *FINAL* MOMENTS, THE *SIDE* A MAN FIGHTS FOR NO LONGER *MATTERS* -- THERE IS ONLY THE FACT OF *DYING* --- A FACT WHICH *RELIEVES* THE CAUSE OF *MEANING*...

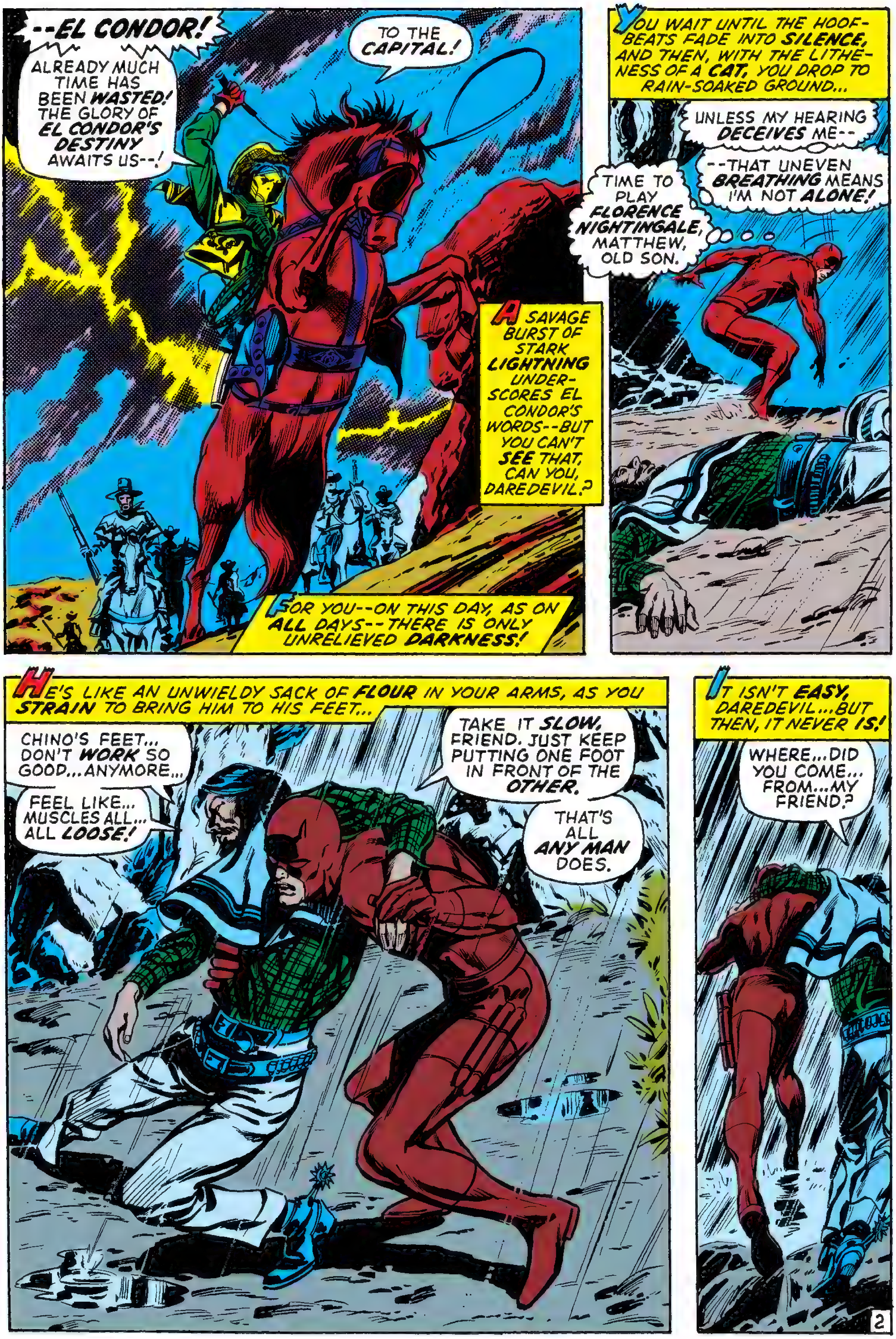

IT IS YOU WHO BETRAY, MAD ONE -- YOU WHO SEEK TO BREAK OUR NATION APART --
AAARRGH!
KRAK!
WORDS!
WHAT IS RHETORIC TO A TRUE LEADER?
CHINO!
NO!
AND HE WHO LIVES BY FIRE -- IS BY FIRE CONSUMED!
SENOR BAYARD -- MY CHEST -- IT IS ON FIRE ---
ARGH!
CHOW!
SO--- YOU ARE THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, KEITH BAYARD---
YOUR DEATH WILL BE POSTPONED, SEÑOR ---
-- FOR YOU ARE OF MUCH GREATER USE TO US ALIVE!
VERRRRY GOOD, KEITH. THAT BRINGS THE NUMBER OF CAPTURED AMERICANS TO THREE ---
YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO --
NOT THAT IT MAKES MY JOB ANY EASIER!
SO, MR. MAN-WITHOUT-FEAR -- WHAT NEXT??
NEXT ISSUE: DIE AS A HERO!

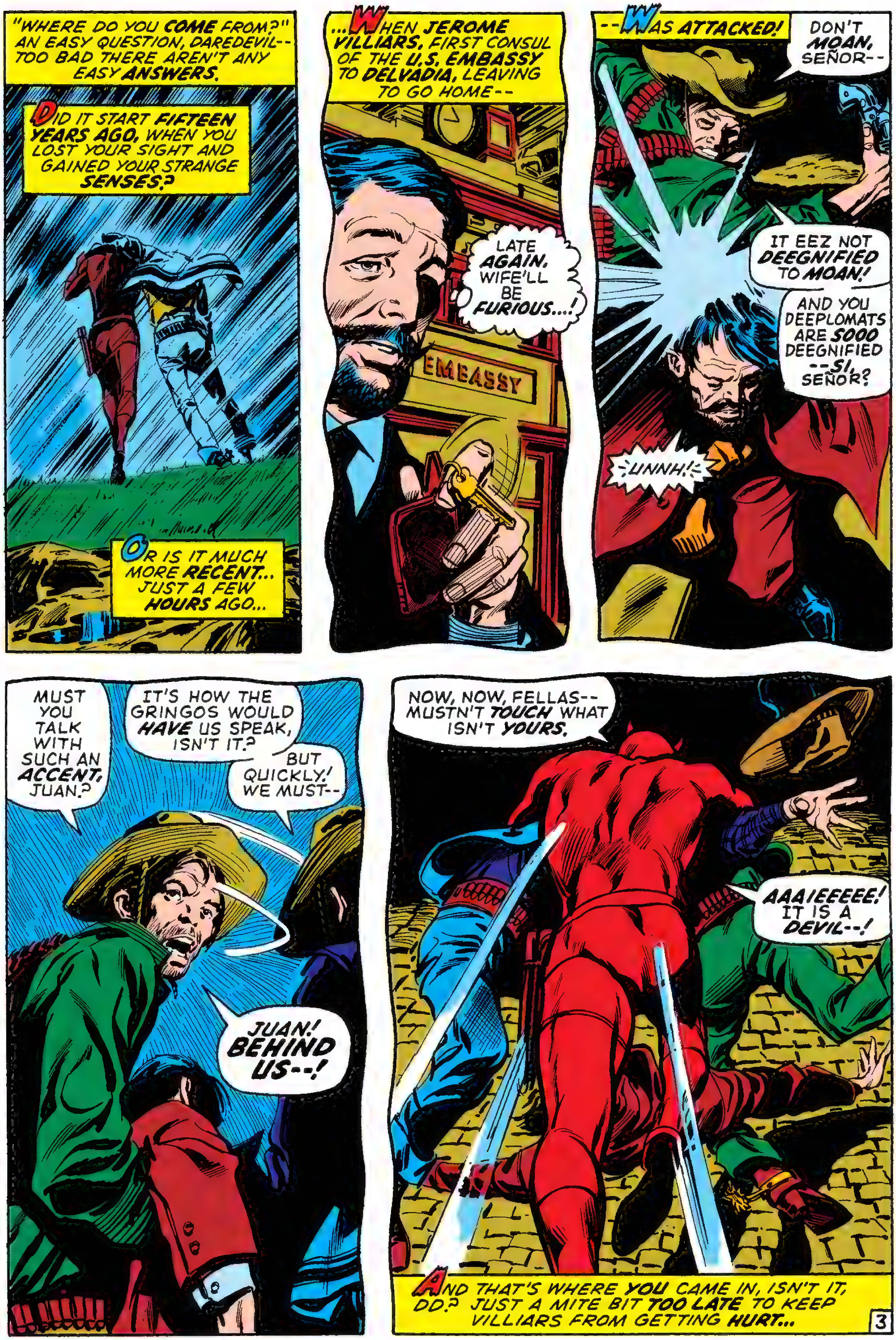
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
76
MAY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
FLY HIGH, D.D.. OR DIE!
THE STORY WE HAD TO CALL...
DEATH-MARCH!

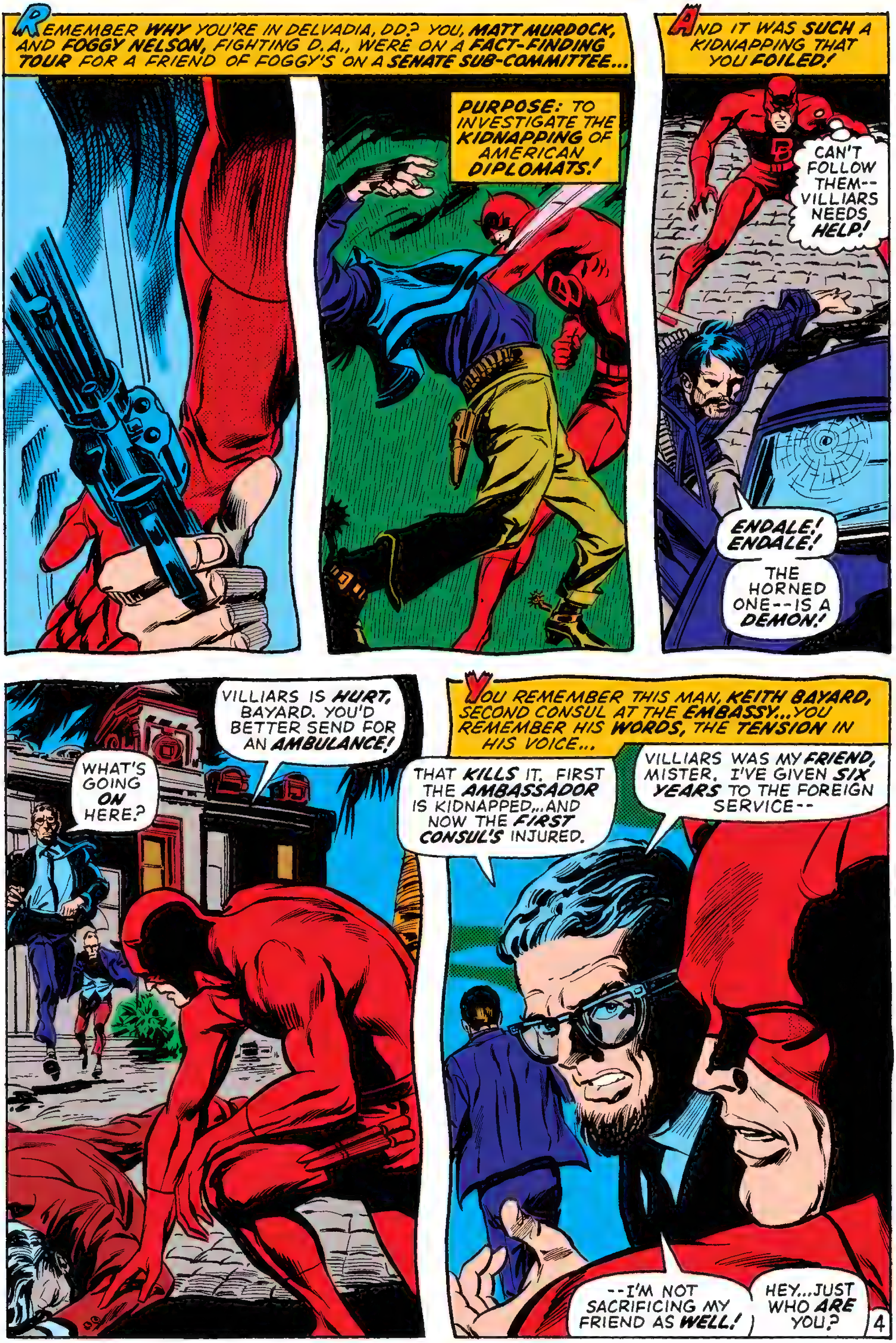
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

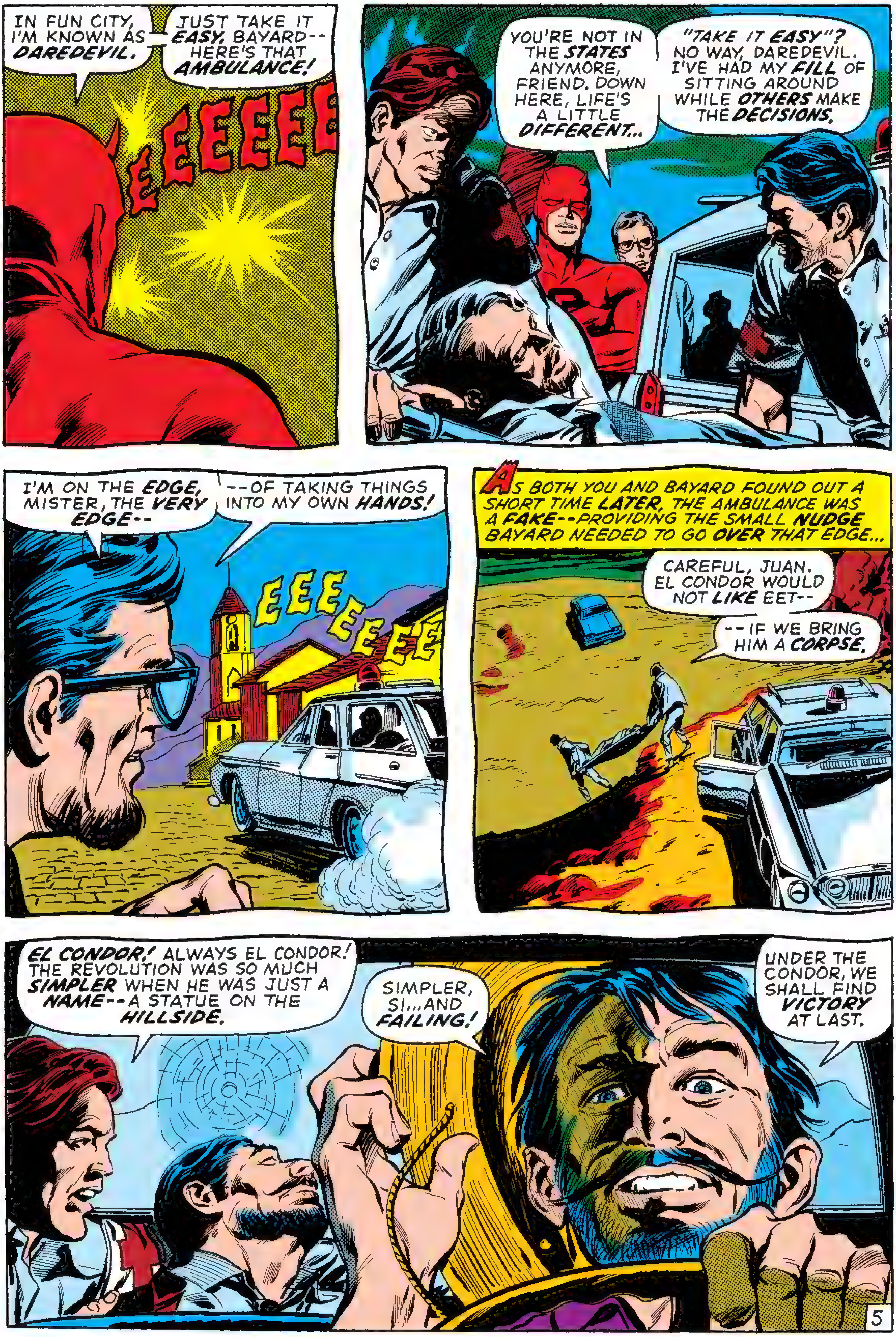
THIS SOJURN SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
STAN LEE, *EDITOR* ★ GERRY CONWAY, *WRITER* ★ GENE COLAN, *ARTIST*
WITH CATERING BY: TOM PALMER, *INKER* ★ ARTIE SIMEK, *LETTERER*

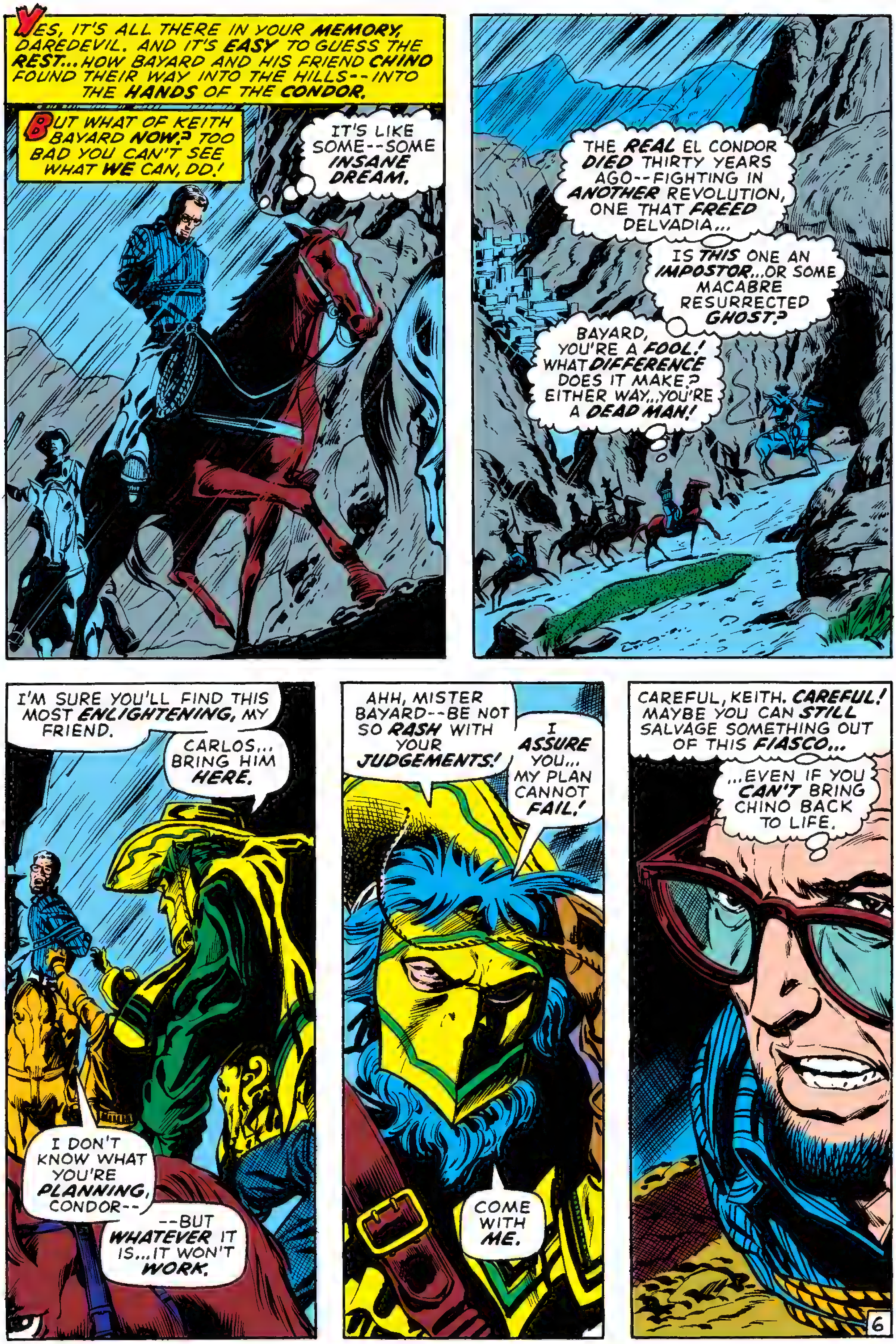

THE DEATHMARCH of EL CONDOR!
LISTEN WELL TO THE SOUNDS OF THE FOREST, DAREDEVIL! HEAR THE DRUMMING PATTER OF HORSE-HOOVES ECHOING IN ITS EMERALD DEPTHS. NOW... LISTEN TO THE LOW MUMBLE OF VOICES DRIFTING UP FROM BELOW...
SEÑOR BAYARD... YOU WOULD DO WELL TO BE MOST STILL, MY FRIEND!
WE ALREADY HAVE ONE OF YOU AMERICAN DEEPLOMATS--
--SO YOU ARE NOT INDISPENSABLE!
I'M AWARE OF THAT, AMIGO. BELIEVE ME, I'M AWARE OF IT!
AND IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN JUST WHO OUR VILLAIN IS FROM LAST ISSUE, MEET--

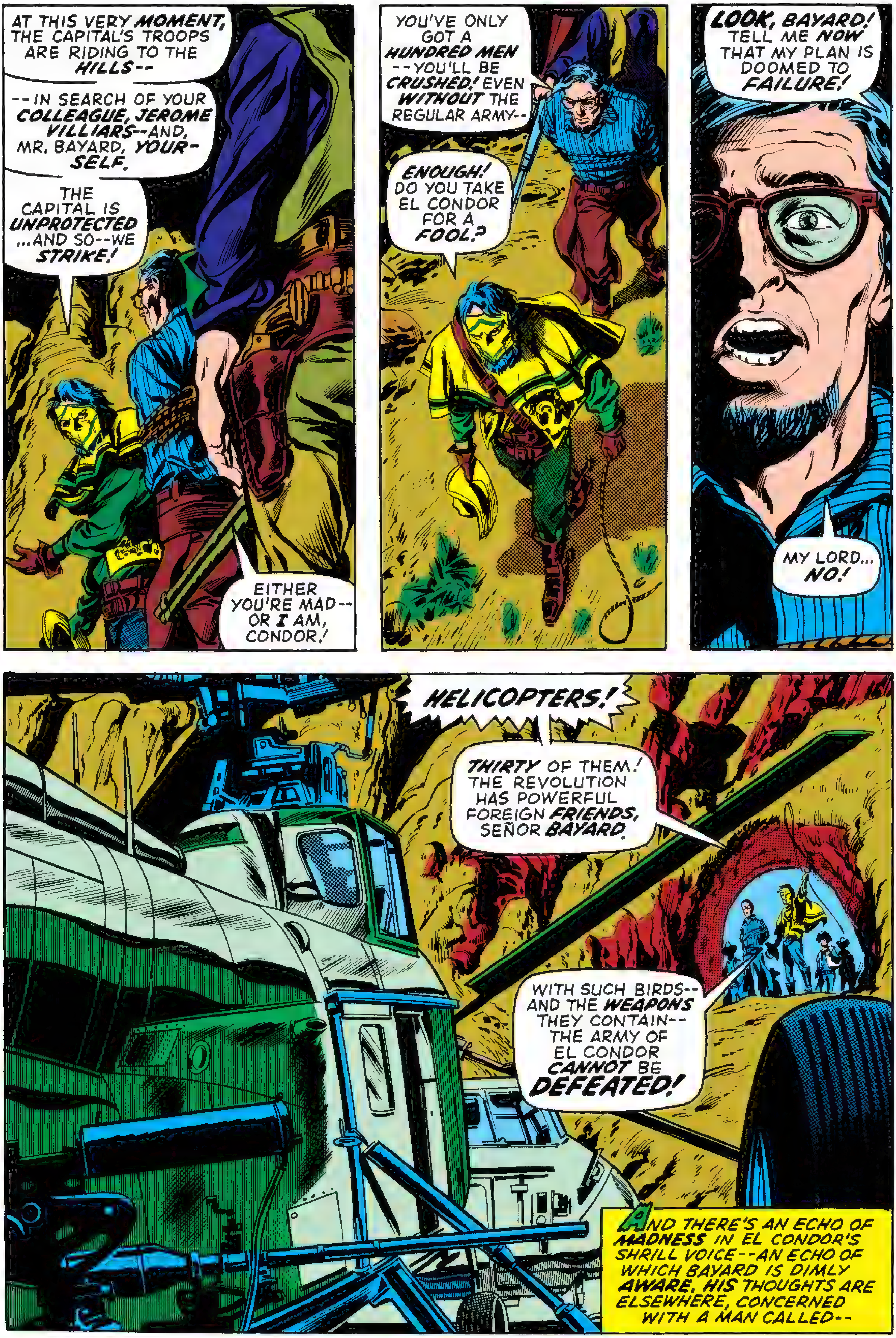

--EL CONDOR!
ALREADY MUCH TIME HAS BEEN WASTED! THE GLORY OF EL CONDOR'S DESTINY AWAITS US--!
TO THE CAPITAL!
A SAVAGE BURST OF STARK LIGHTNING UNDERSCORES EL CONDOR'S WORDS--BUT YOU CAN'T SEE THAT, CAN YOU, DAREDEVIL?
FOR YOU--ON THIS DAY, AS ON ALL DAYS--THERE IS ONLY UNRELIEVED DARKNESS!
YOU WAIT UNTIL THE HOOFBEATS FADE INTO SILENCE, AND THEN, WITH THE LITHENESS OF A CAT, YOU DROP TO RAIN-SOAKED GROUND...
UNLESS MY HEARING DECEIVES ME--
--THAT UNEVEN BREATHING MEANS I'M NOT ALONE!
TIME TO PLAY FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, MATTHEW, OLD SON.
HE'S LIKE AN UNWIELDY SACK OF FLOUR IN YOUR ARMS, AS YOU STRAIN TO BRING HIM TO HIS FEET...
CHINO'S FEET... DON'T WORK SO GOOD... ANYMORE...
FEEL LIKE... MUSCLES ALL... ALL LOOSE!
TAKE IT SLOW, FRIEND. JUST KEEP PUTTING ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER.
THAT'S ALL ANY MAN DOES.
IT ISN'T EASY, DAREDEVIL... BUT THEN, IT NEVER IS!
WHERE... DID YOU COME... FROM... MY FRIEND?

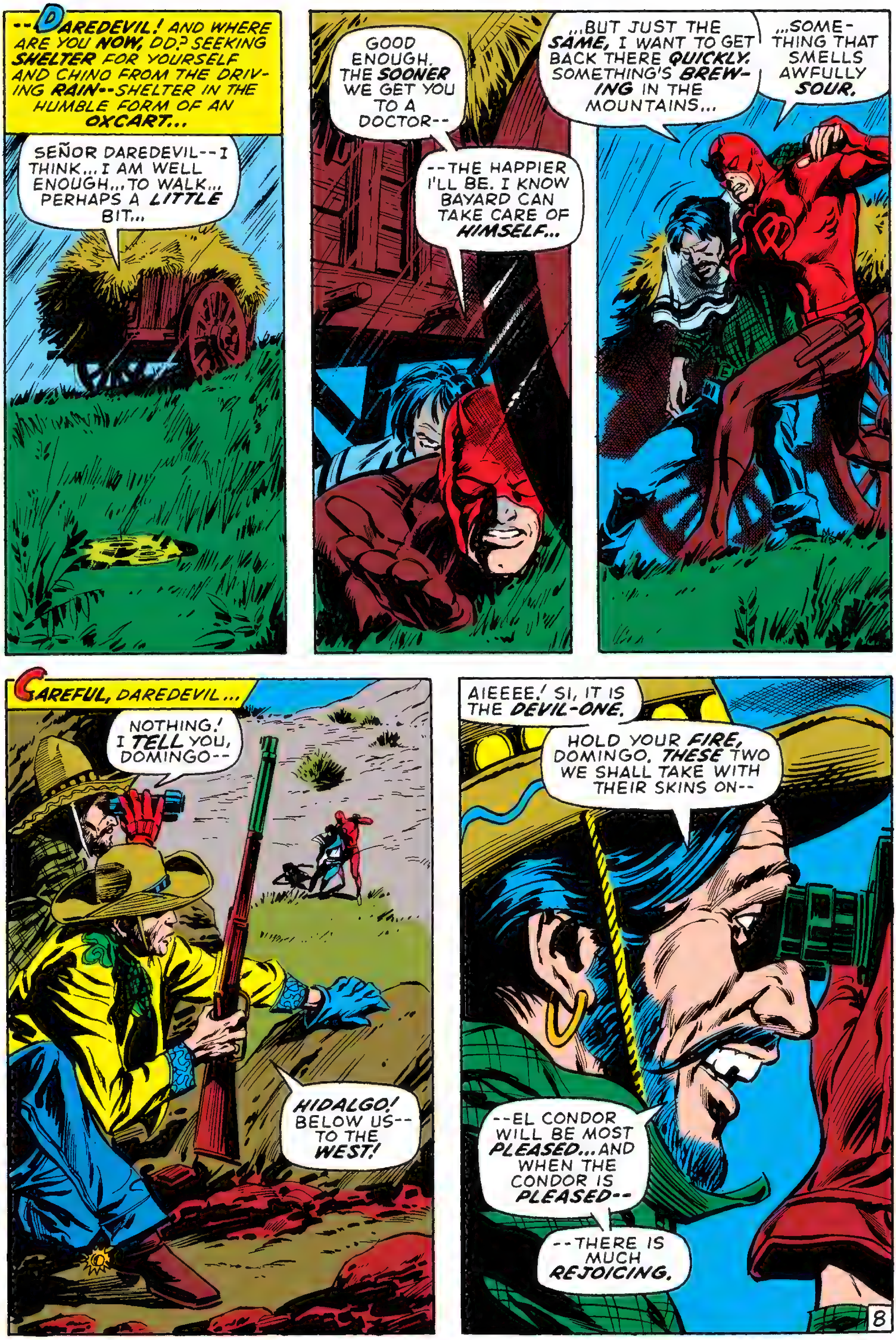

"WHERE DO YOU **COME** FROM?" AN EASY QUESTION, DAREDEVIL-- TOO BAD THERE AREN'T ANY EASY **ANSWERS**.
DID IT START **FIFTEEN YEARS AGO,** WHEN YOU LOST YOUR SIGHT AND GAINED YOUR STRANGE **SENSES?**
OR IS IT MUCH MORE **RECENT...** JUST A FEW **HOURS** AGO...
...WHEN **JEROME VILLIARS,** FIRST CONSUL OF THE **U.S. EMBASSY** TO **DELVADIA,** LEAVING TO GO HOME--
LATE **AGAIN.** WIFE'LL BE **FURIOUS...!**
EMBASSY
--WAS **ATTACKED!**
DON'T **MOAN,** SEÑOR--
IT EEZ NOT **DEEGNIFIED** TO **MOAN!**
AND YOU DEEPLOMATS ARE **SOOO** DEEGNIFIED **--SI,** SEÑOR?
UNNH!
MUST YOU TALK WITH SUCH AN **ACCENT,** JUAN?
IT'S HOW THE GRINGOS WOULD **HAVE** US SPEAK, ISN'T IT?
BUT QUICKLY! WE MUST--
JUAN! **BEHIND US--!**
NOW, NOW, FELLAS-- MUSTN'T **TOUCH** WHAT ISN'T **YOURS.**
AAAIEEEEE! IT IS A **DEVIL--!**
AND THAT'S WHERE **YOU** CAME IN, ISN'T IT, DD? JUST A MITE BIT **TOO LATE** TO KEEP VILLIARS FROM GETTING **HURT...**
3

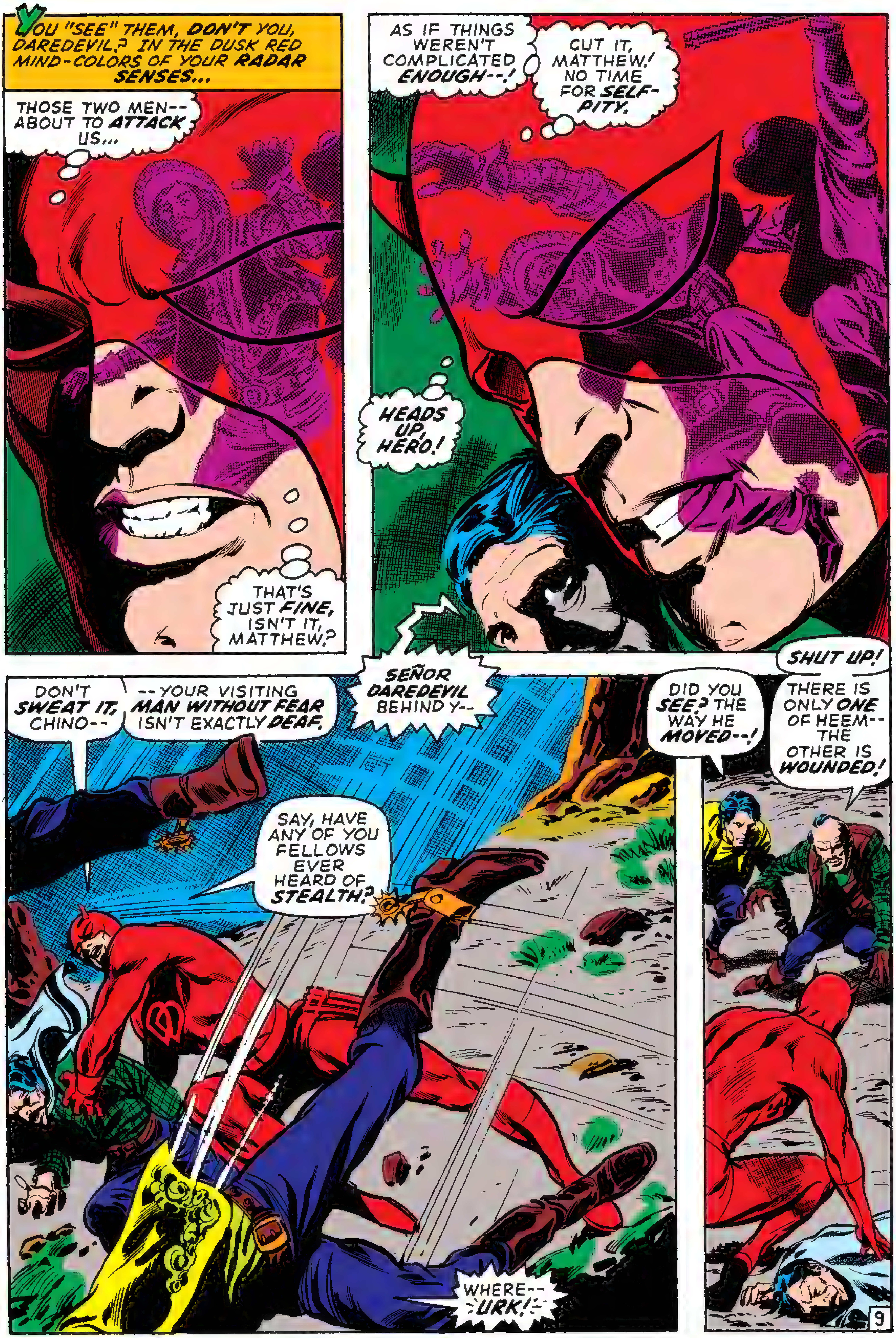

REMEMBER WHY YOU'RE IN DELVADIA, DD? YOU, MATT MURDOCK, AND FOGGY NELSON, FIGHTING D.A., WERE ON A FACT-FINDING TOUR FOR A FRIEND OF FOGGY'S ON A SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE...
PURPOSE: TO INVESTIGATE THE KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS!
AND IT WAS SUCH A KIDNAPPING THAT YOU FOILED!
CAN'T FOLLOW THEM-- VILLIARS NEEDS HELP!
ENDALE! ENDALE!
THE HORNED ONE--IS A DEMON!
VILLIARS IS HURT, BAYARD. YOU'D BETTER SEND FOR AN AMBULANCE!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
YOU REMEMBER THIS MAN, KEITH BAYARD, SECOND CONSUL AT THE EMBASSY...YOU REMEMBER HIS WORDS, THE TENSION IN HIS VOICE...
THAT KILLS IT. FIRST THE AMBASSADOR IS KIDNAPPED...AND NOW THE FIRST CONSUL'S INJURED.
VILLIARS WAS MY FRIEND, MISTER. I'VE GIVEN SIX YEARS TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE--
--I'M NOT SACRIFICING MY FRIEND AS WELL!
HEY...JUST WHO ARE YOU?

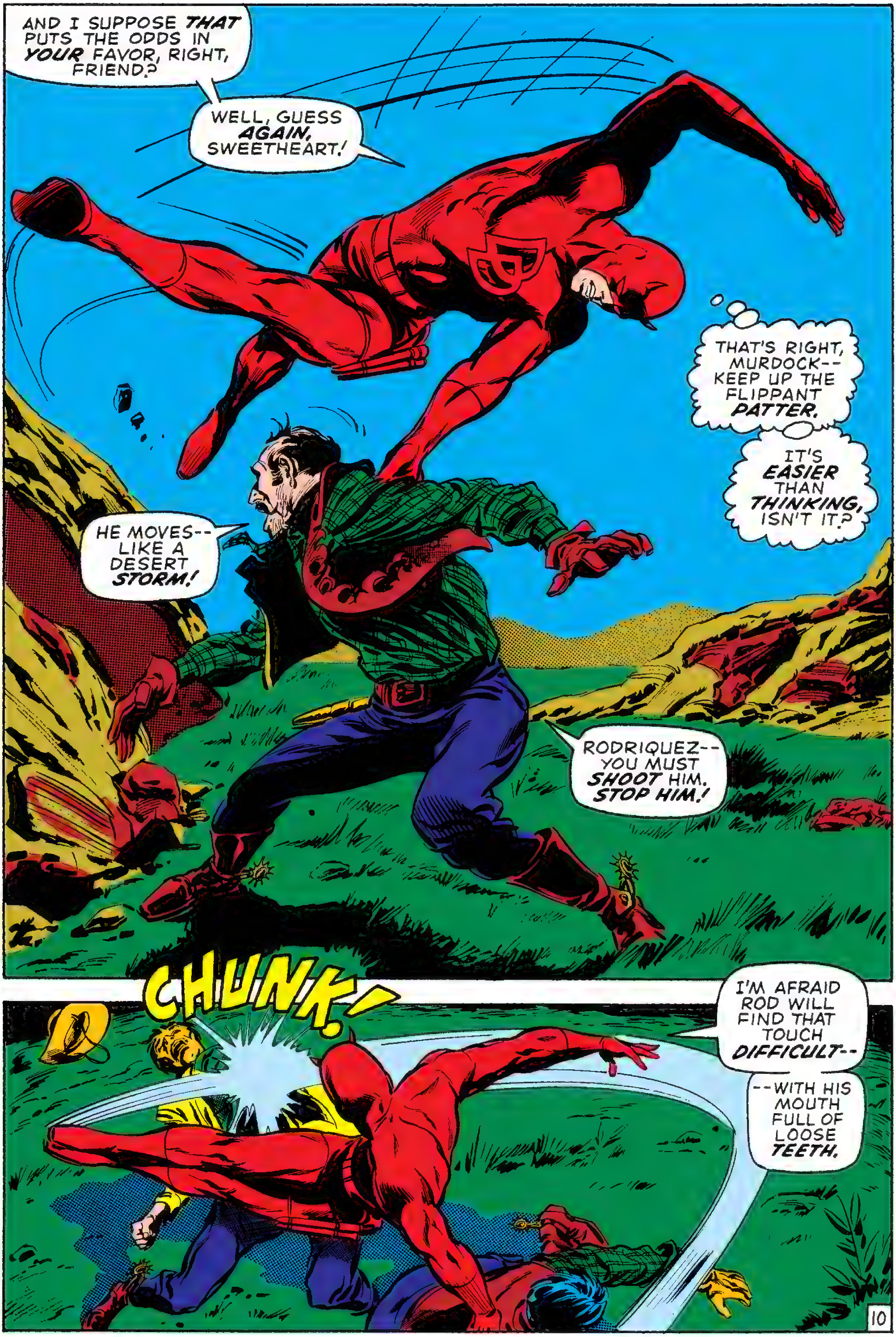

IN FUN CITY, I'M KNOWN AS **DAREDEVIL.**
JUST TAKE IT **EASY,** BAYARD-- HERE'S THAT **AMBULANCE!**
EEEEEEE
YOU'RE NOT IN THE **STATES** ANYMORE, FRIEND. DOWN HERE, LIFE'S A LITTLE **DIFFERENT...**
"TAKE IT EASY"? NO WAY, DAREDEVIL. I'VE HAD MY **FILL** OF SITTING AROUND WHILE **OTHERS** MAKE THE **DECISIONS.**
I'M ON THE **EDGE,** MISTER, THE **VERY EDGE--**
--OF TAKING THINGS INTO MY OWN **HANDS!**
EEEEEEEE
AS BOTH YOU AND BAYARD FOUND OUT A SHORT TIME ***LATER,*** *THE AMBULANCE WAS A* ***FAKE***--*PROVIDING THE SMALL* ***NUDGE*** *BAYARD NEEDED TO GO* ***OVER*** *THAT EDGE...*
CAREFUL, JUAN. EL CONDOR WOULD NOT **LIKE** EET--
--IF WE BRING HIM A **CORPSE.**
EL CONDOR! ALWAYS EL CONDOR! THE REVOLUTION WAS SO MUCH **SIMPLER** WHEN HE WAS JUST A **NAME**--A STATUE ON THE **HILLSIDE.**
SIMPLER, SI...AND **FAILING!**
UNDER THE CONDOR, WE SHALL FIND **VICTORY** AT LAST.

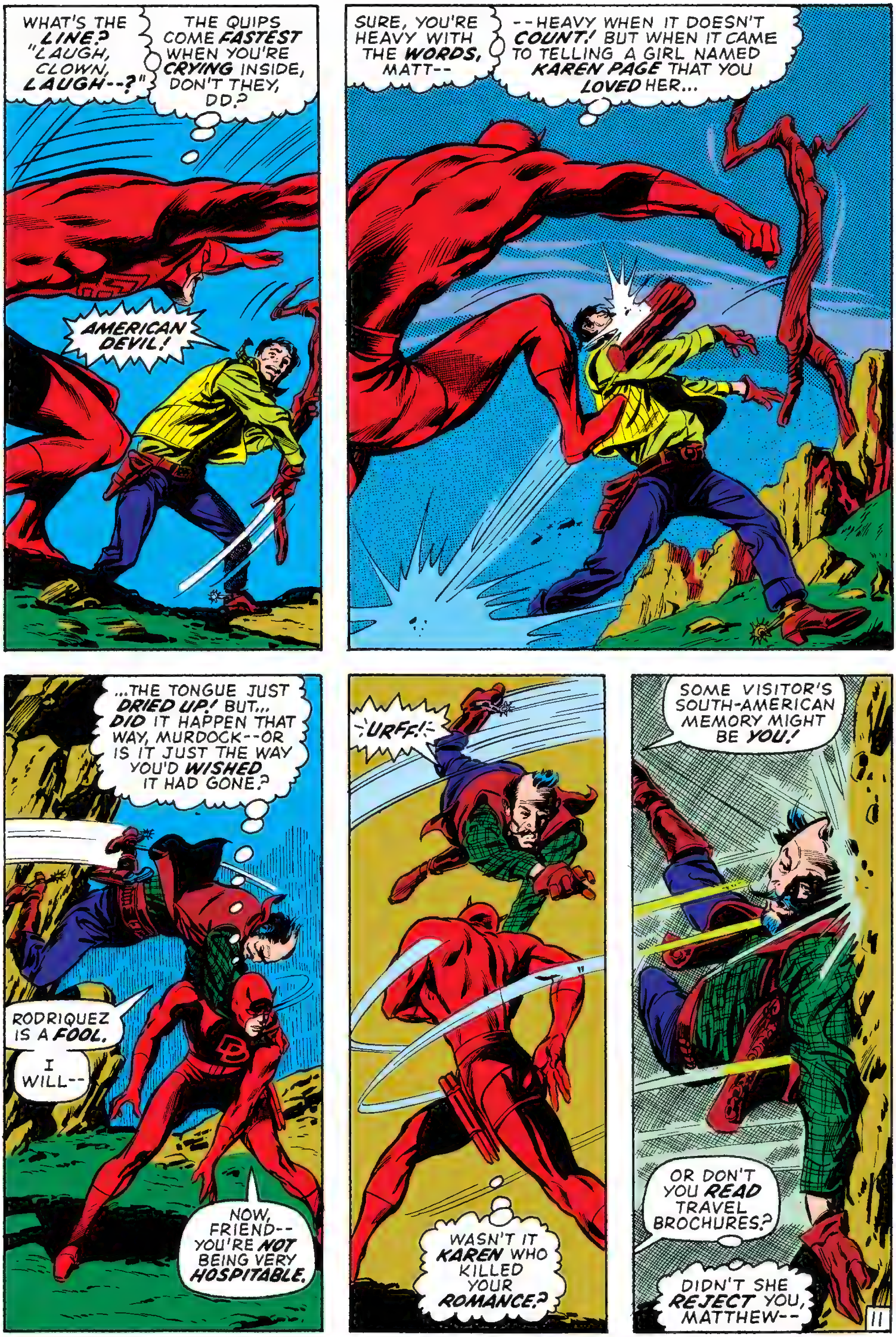

YES, IT'S ALL THERE IN YOUR MEMORY, DAREDEVIL. AND IT'S EASY TO GUESS THE REST... HOW BAYARD AND HIS FRIEND CHINO FOUND THEIR WAY INTO THE HILLS--INTO THE HANDS OF THE CONDOR.
BUT WHAT OF KEITH BAYARD NOW? TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT WE CAN, DD!
IT'S LIKE SOME--SOME INSANE DREAM.
THE REAL EL CONDOR DIED THIRTY YEARS AGO--FIGHTING IN ANOTHER REVOLUTION, ONE THAT FREED DELVADIA...
IS THIS ONE AN IMPOSTOR...OR SOME MACABRE RESURRECTED GHOST?
BAYARD, YOU'RE A FOOL! WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? EITHER WAY...YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND THIS MOST ENLIGHTENING, MY FRIEND.
CARLOS... BRING HIM HERE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING, CONDOR--
--BUT WHATEVER IT IS...IT WON'T WORK.
AHH, MISTER BAYARD--BE NOT SO RASH WITH YOUR JUDGEMENTS!
I ASSURE YOU... MY PLAN CANNOT FAIL!
COME WITH ME.
CAREFUL, KEITH. CAREFUL! MAYBE YOU CAN STILL SALVAGE SOMETHING OUT OF THIS FIASCO...
...EVEN IF YOU CAN'T BRING CHINO BACK TO LIFE.

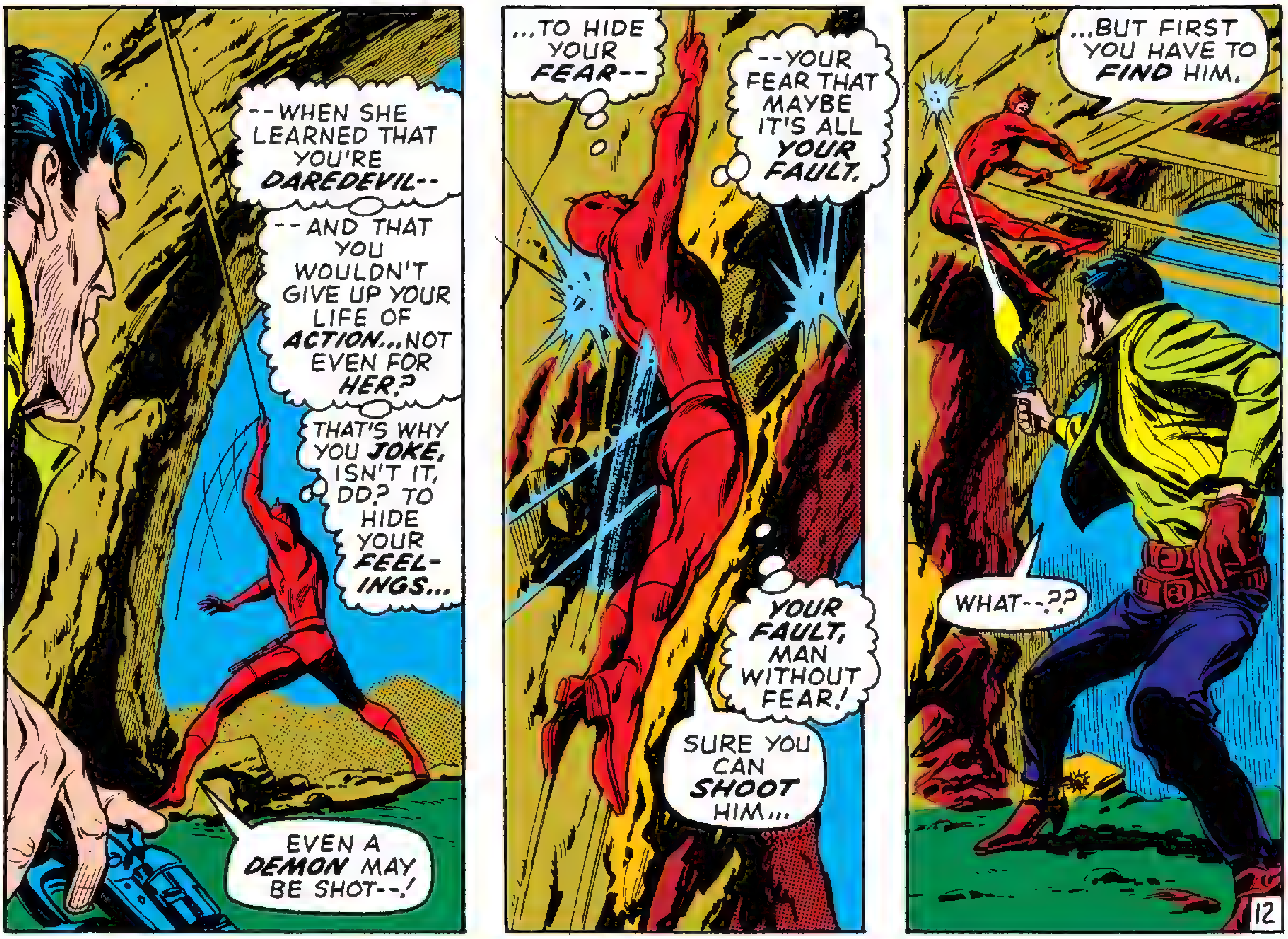

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE CAPITAL'S TROOPS ARE RIDING TO THE HILLS--
--IN SEARCH OF YOUR COLLEAGUE, JEROME VILLIARS--AND, MR. BAYARD, YOURSELF.
THE CAPITAL IS UNPROTECTED ...AND SO--WE STRIKE!
EITHER YOU'RE MAD--OR I AM, CONDOR!
YOU'VE ONLY GOT A HUNDRED MEN--YOU'LL BE CRUSHED! EVEN WITHOUT THE REGULAR ARMY--
ENOUGH! DO YOU TAKE EL CONDOR FOR A FOOL?
LOOK, BAYARD! TELL ME NOW THAT MY PLAN IS DOOMED TO FAILURE!
MY LORD... NO!
HELICOPTERS!
THIRTY OF THEM! THE REVOLUTION HAS POWERFUL FOREIGN FRIENDS, SEÑOR BAYARD.
WITH SUCH BIRDS--AND THE WEAPONS THEY CONTAIN--THE ARMY OF EL CONDOR CANNOT BE DEFEATED!
AND THERE'S AN ECHO OF MADNESS IN EL CONDOR'S SHRILL VOICE--AN ECHO OF WHICH BAYARD IS DIMLY AWARE. HIS THOUGHTS ARE ELSEWHERE, CONCERNED WITH A MAN CALLED--

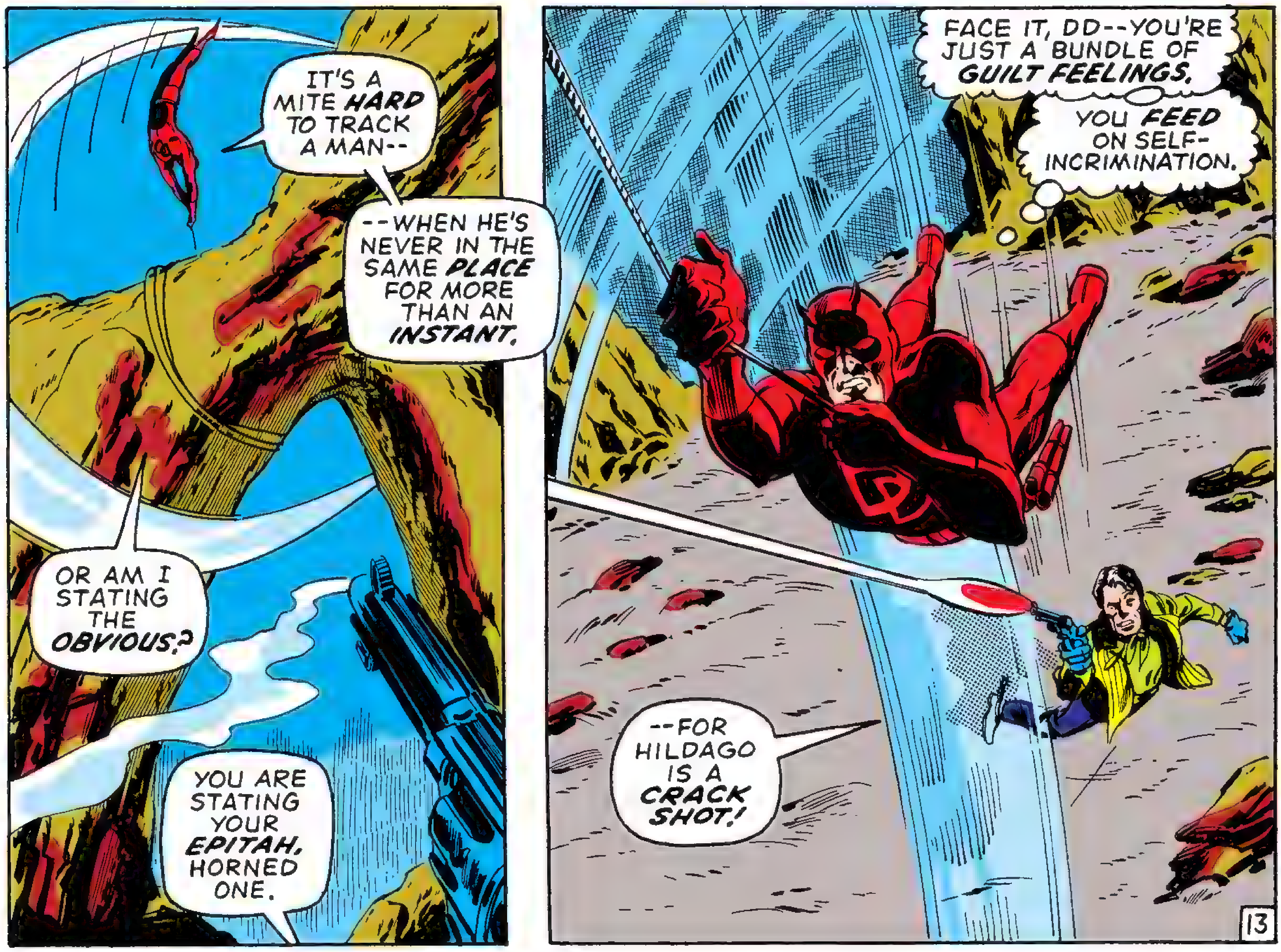

--DAREDEVIL! AND WHERE ARE YOU NOW, DD? SEEKING SHELTER FOR YOURSELF AND CHINO FROM THE DRIVING RAIN--SHELTER IN THE HUMBLE FORM OF AN OXCART...
SEÑOR DAREDEVIL--I THINK... I AM WELL ENOUGH... TO WALK... PERHAPS A LITTLE BIT...
GOOD ENOUGH. THE SOONER WE GET YOU TO A DOCTOR--
--THE HAPPIER I'LL BE. I KNOW BAYARD CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF...
...BUT JUST THE SAME, I WANT TO GET BACK THERE QUICKLY. SOMETHING'S BREWING IN THE MOUNTAINS...
...SOMETHING THAT SMELLS AWFULLY SOUR.
CAREFUL, DAREDEVIL...
NOTHING! I TELL YOU, DOMINGO--
HIDALGO! BELOW US--TO THE WEST!
AIEEEE! SI, IT IS THE DEVIL-ONE.
HOLD YOUR FIRE, DOMINGO. THESE TWO WE SHALL TAKE WITH THEIR SKINS ON--
--EL CONDOR WILL BE MOST PLEASED... AND WHEN THE CONDOR IS PLEASED--
--THERE IS MUCH REJOICING.

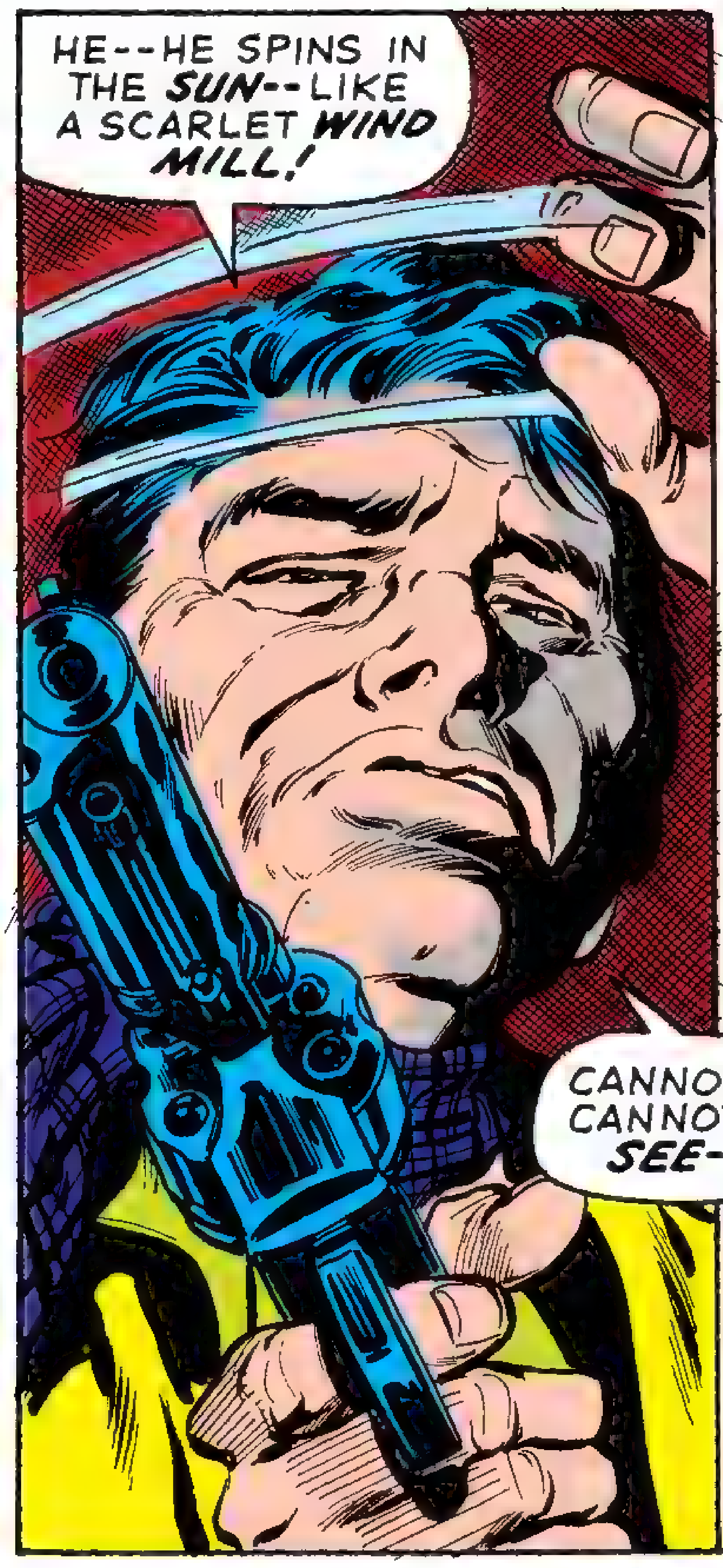

YOU "SEE" THEM, DON'T YOU, DAREDEVIL? IN THE DUSK RED MIND-COLORS OF YOUR RADAR SENSES...
THOSE TWO MEN-- ABOUT TO ATTACK US...
THAT'S JUST FINE, ISN'T IT, MATTHEW?
AS IF THINGS WEREN'T COMPLICATED ENOUGH--!
CUT IT, MATTHEW! NO TIME FOR SELF-PITY.
HEADS UP, HERO!
SEÑOR DAREDEVIL BEHIND Y--
DON'T SWEAT IT, CHINO--
--YOUR VISITING MAN WITHOUT FEAR ISN'T EXACTLY DEAF.
SAY, HAVE ANY OF YOU FELLOWS EVER HEARD OF STEALTH?
WHERE-- URK!
SHUT UP!
DID YOU SEE? THE WAY HE MOVED--!
THERE IS ONLY ONE OF HEEM-- THE OTHER IS WOUNDED!

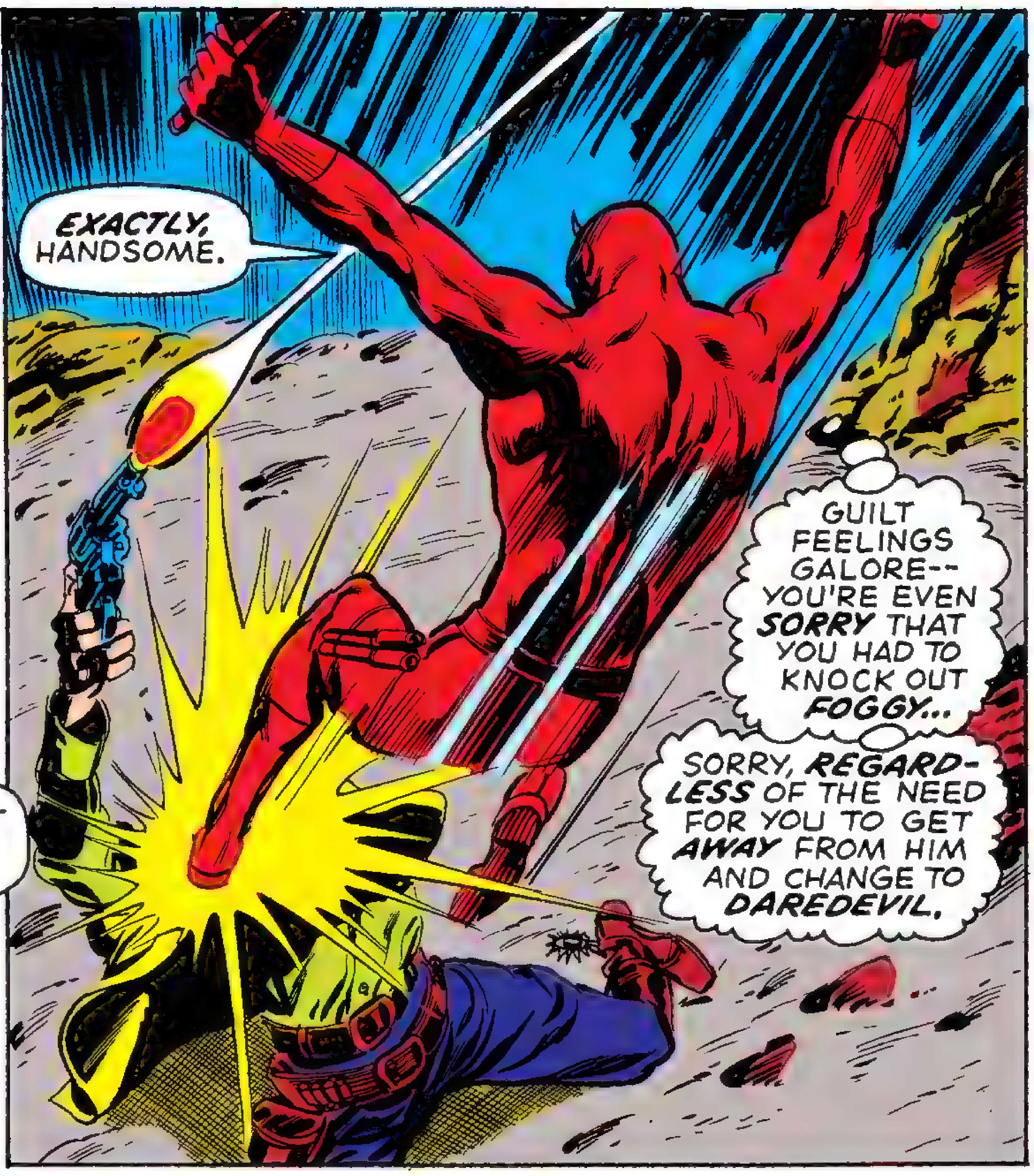

AND I SUPPOSE *THAT* PUTS THE ODDS IN *YOUR* FAVOR, RIGHT, FRIEND?
WELL, GUESS *AGAIN,* SWEETHEART!
THAT'S RIGHT, MURDOCK-- KEEP UP THE FLIPPANT *PATTER.*
IT'S *EASIER* THAN *THINKING,* ISN'T IT?
HE MOVES-- LIKE A DESERT *STORM!*
RODRIQUEZ-- YOU MUST *SHOOT* HIM. *STOP HIM!*
CHUNK!
I'M AFRAID ROD WILL FIND THAT TOUCH *DIFFICULT*--
--WITH HIS MOUTH FULL OF LOOSE *TEETH.*

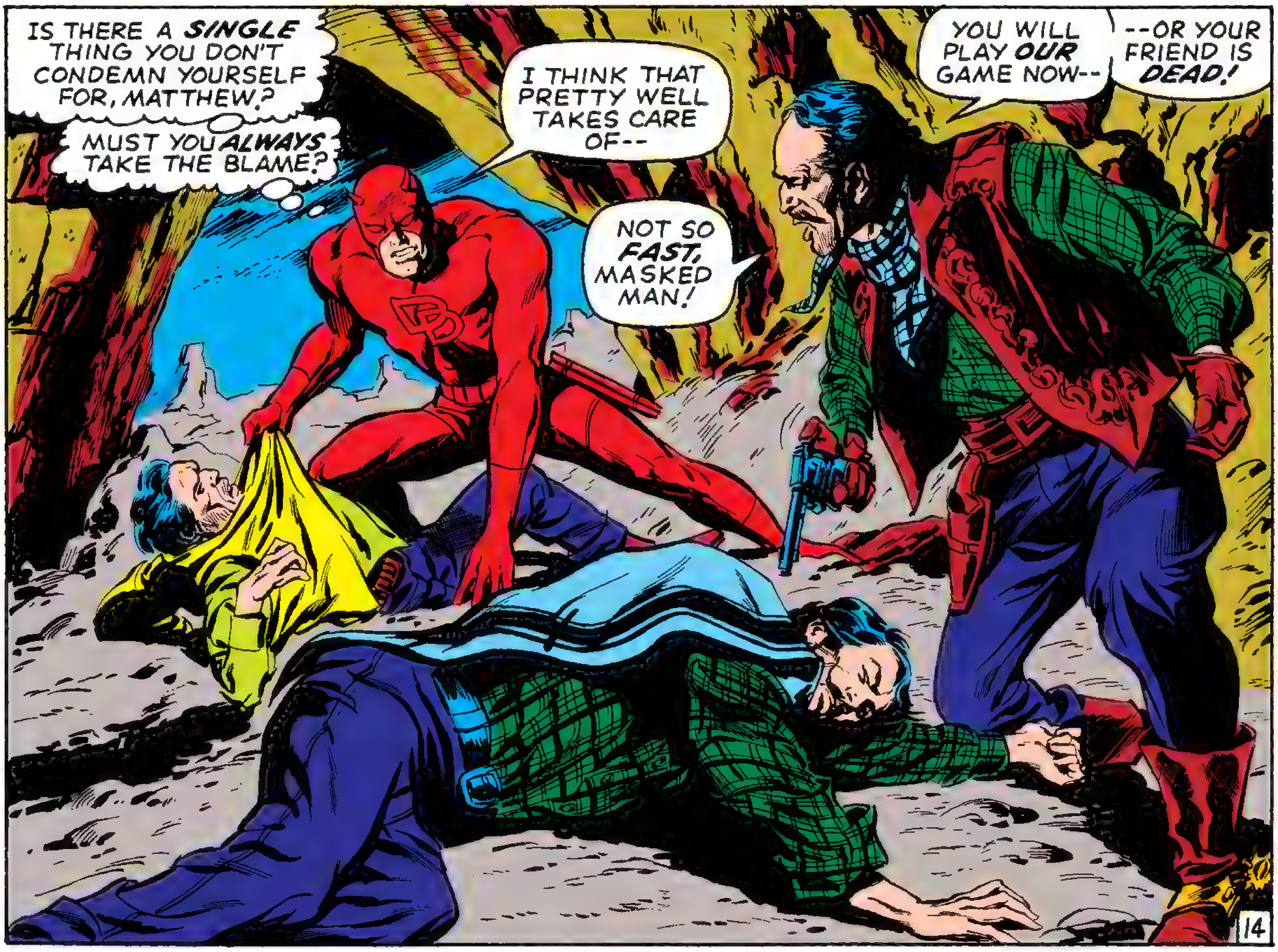

WHAT'S THE LINE? "LAUGH, CLOWN, LAUGH--?"
THE QUIPS COME FASTEST WHEN YOU'RE CRYING INSIDE, DON'T THEY, DD?
AMERICAN DEVIL!
SURE, YOU'RE HEAVY WITH THE WORDS, MATT--
--HEAVY WHEN IT DOESN'T COUNT! BUT WHEN IT CAME TO TELLING A GIRL NAMED KAREN PAGE THAT YOU LOVED HER...
...THE TONGUE JUST DRIED UP! BUT... DID IT HAPPEN THAT WAY, MURDOCK--OR IS IT JUST THE WAY YOU'D WISHED IT HAD GONE?
RODRIQUEZ IS A FOOL.
I WILL--
NOW, FRIEND-- YOU'RE NOT BEING VERY HOSPITABLE.
URFF!
WASN'T IT KAREN WHO KILLED YOUR ROMANCE?
SOME VISITOR'S SOUTH-AMERICAN MEMORY MIGHT BE YOU!
OR DON'T YOU READ TRAVEL BROCHURES?
DIDN'T SHE REJECT YOU, MATTHEW--
11

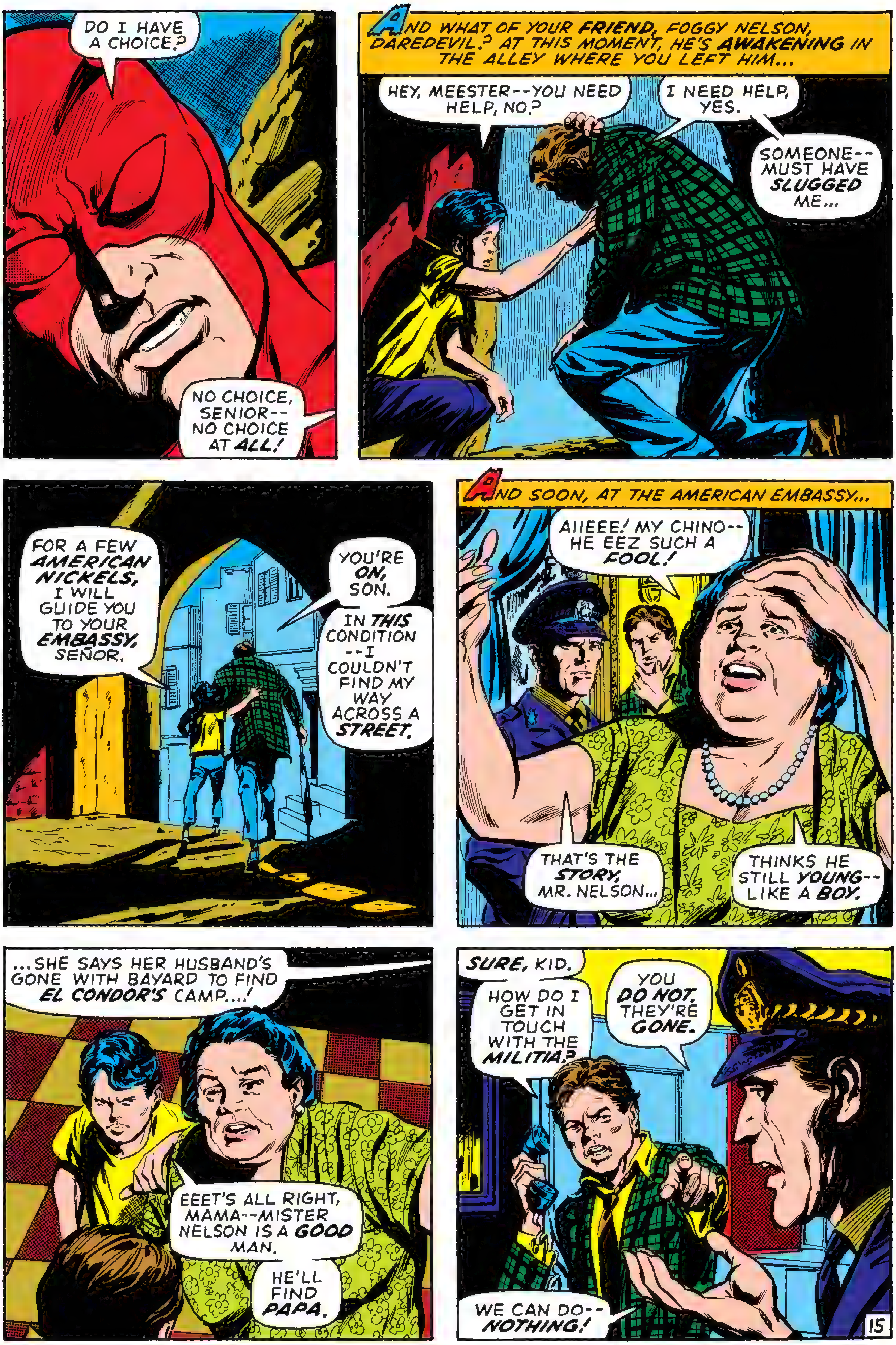

--WHEN SHE LEARNED THAT YOU'RE **DAREDEVIL**--
--AND THAT YOU WOULDN'T GIVE UP YOUR LIFE OF **ACTION**...NOT EVEN FOR **HER**?
THAT'S WHY YOU **JOKE**, ISN'T IT, DD? TO HIDE YOUR **FEELINGS**...
EVEN A **DEMON** MAY BE SHOT--!
...TO HIDE YOUR **FEAR**--
--YOUR FEAR THAT MAYBE IT'S ALL **YOUR FAULT**.
YOUR FAULT, MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
SURE YOU CAN **SHOOT** HIM...
...BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO **FIND** HIM.
WHAT--??
12

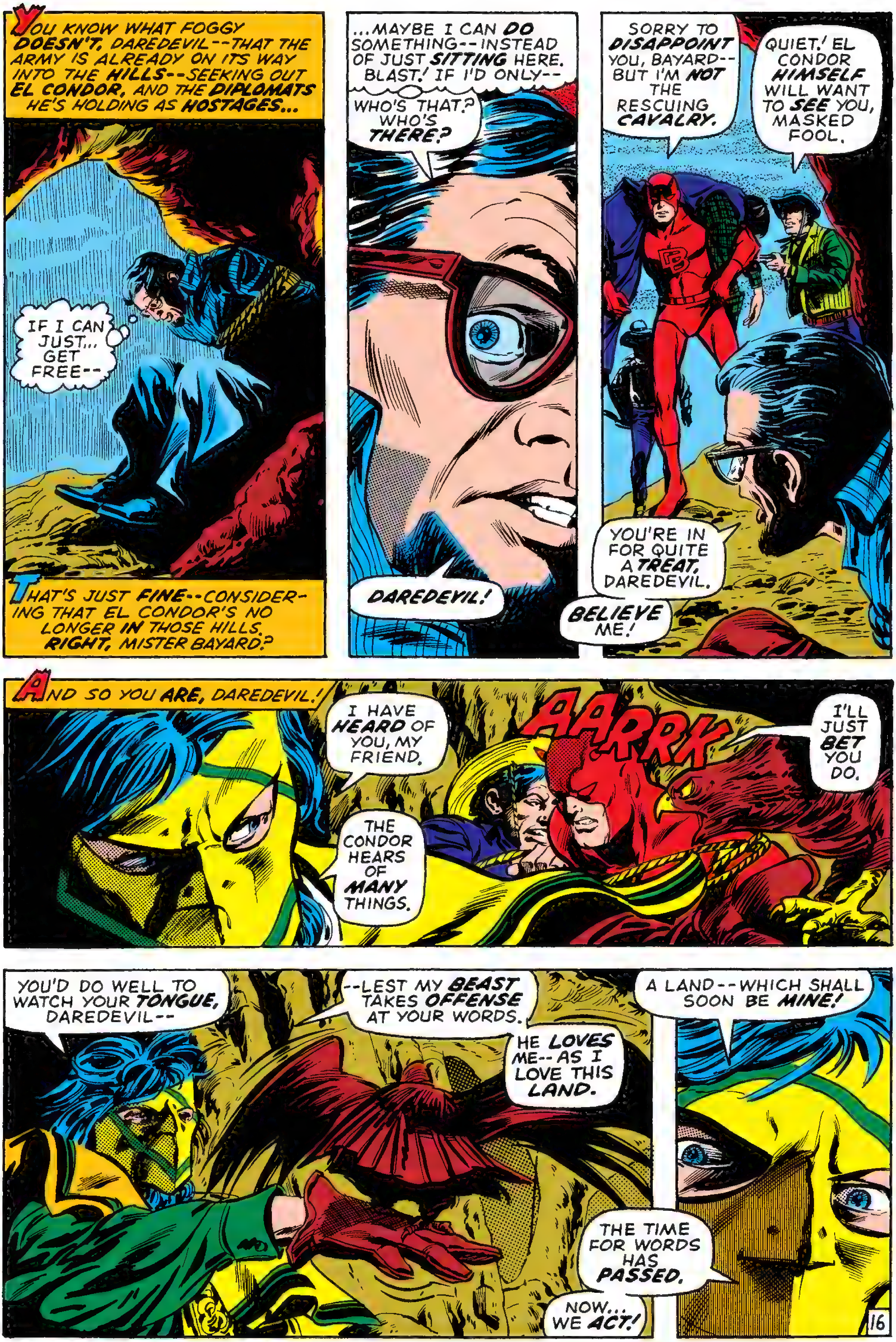

IT'S A MITE **HARD** TO TRACK A MAN--
--WHEN HE'S NEVER IN THE SAME **PLACE** FOR MORE THAN AN **INSTANT**.
OR AM I STATING THE **OBVIOUS**?
YOU ARE STATING YOUR **EPITAH**, HORNED ONE.
FACE IT, DD--YOU'RE JUST A BUNDLE OF **GUILT FEELINGS**.
YOU **FEED** ON SELF-INCRIMINATION.
--FOR HILDAGO IS A **CRACK SHOT**!
13

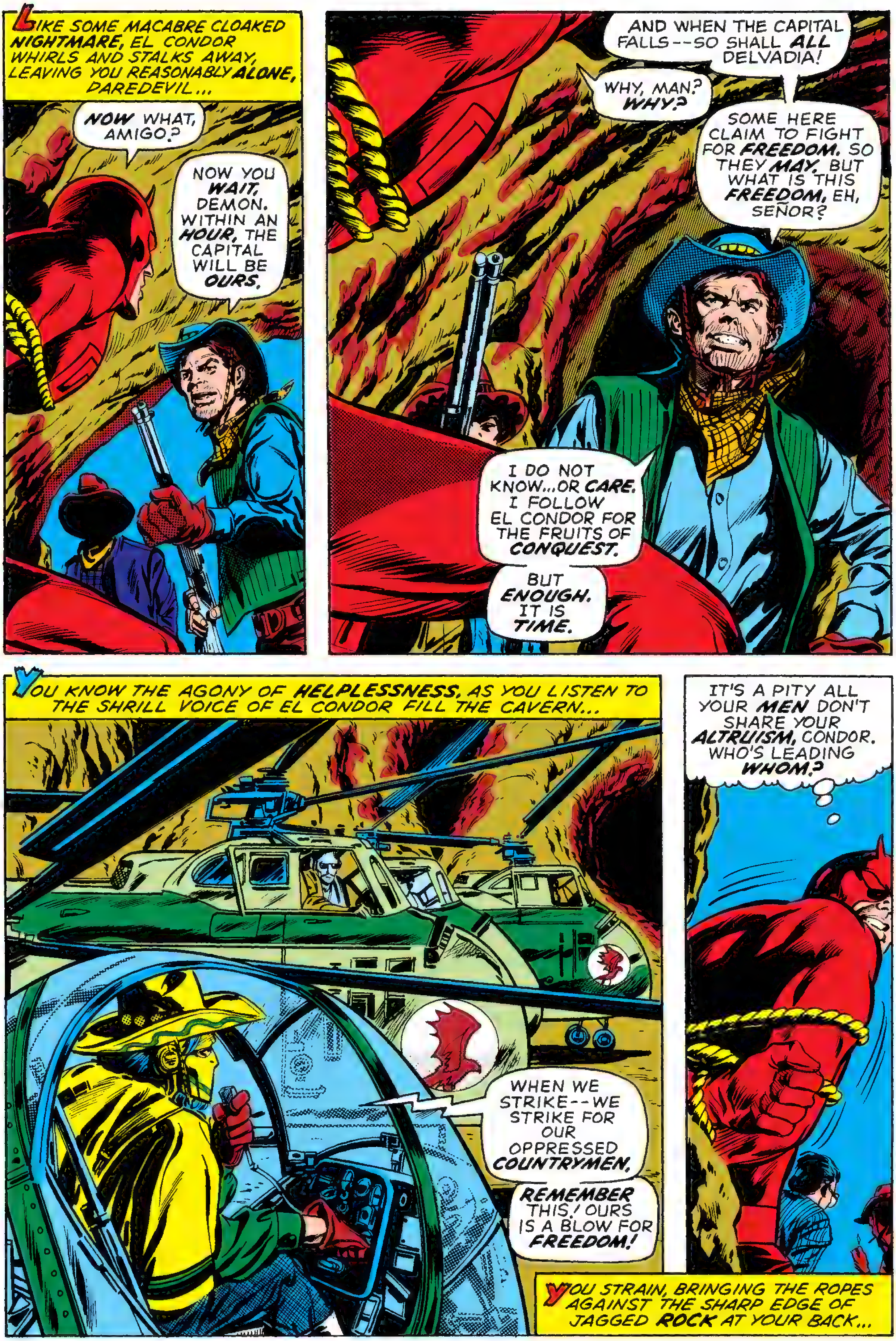

HE--HE SPINS IN THE SUN--LIKE A SCARLET WIND MILL!
CANNOT--CANNOT SEE--

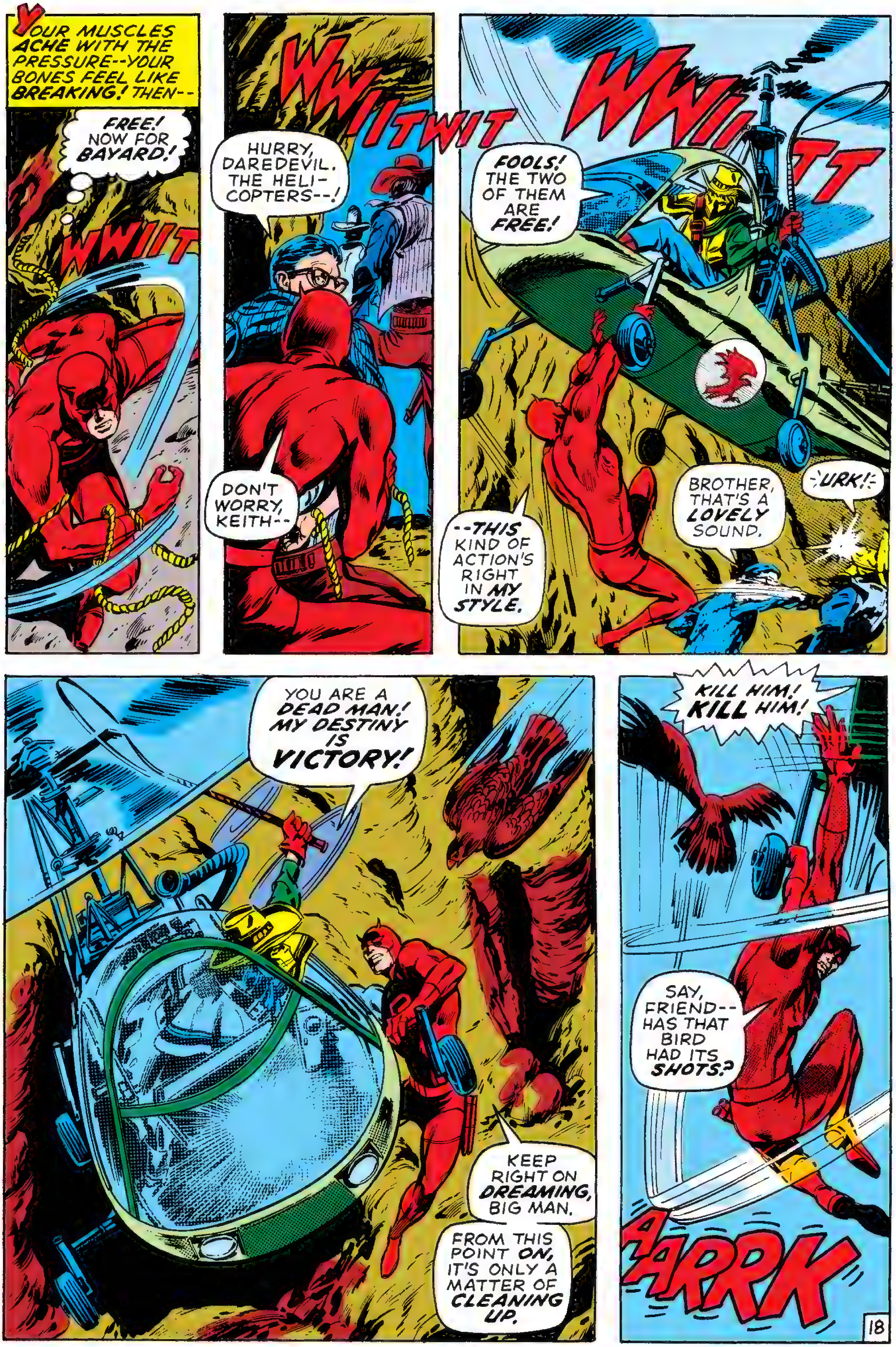

EXACTLY, HANDSOME.
GUILT FEELINGS GALORE--YOU'RE EVEN SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO KNOCK OUT FOGGY...
SORRY, REGARDLESS OF THE NEED FOR YOU TO GET AWAY FROM HIM AND CHANGE TO DAREDEVIL.

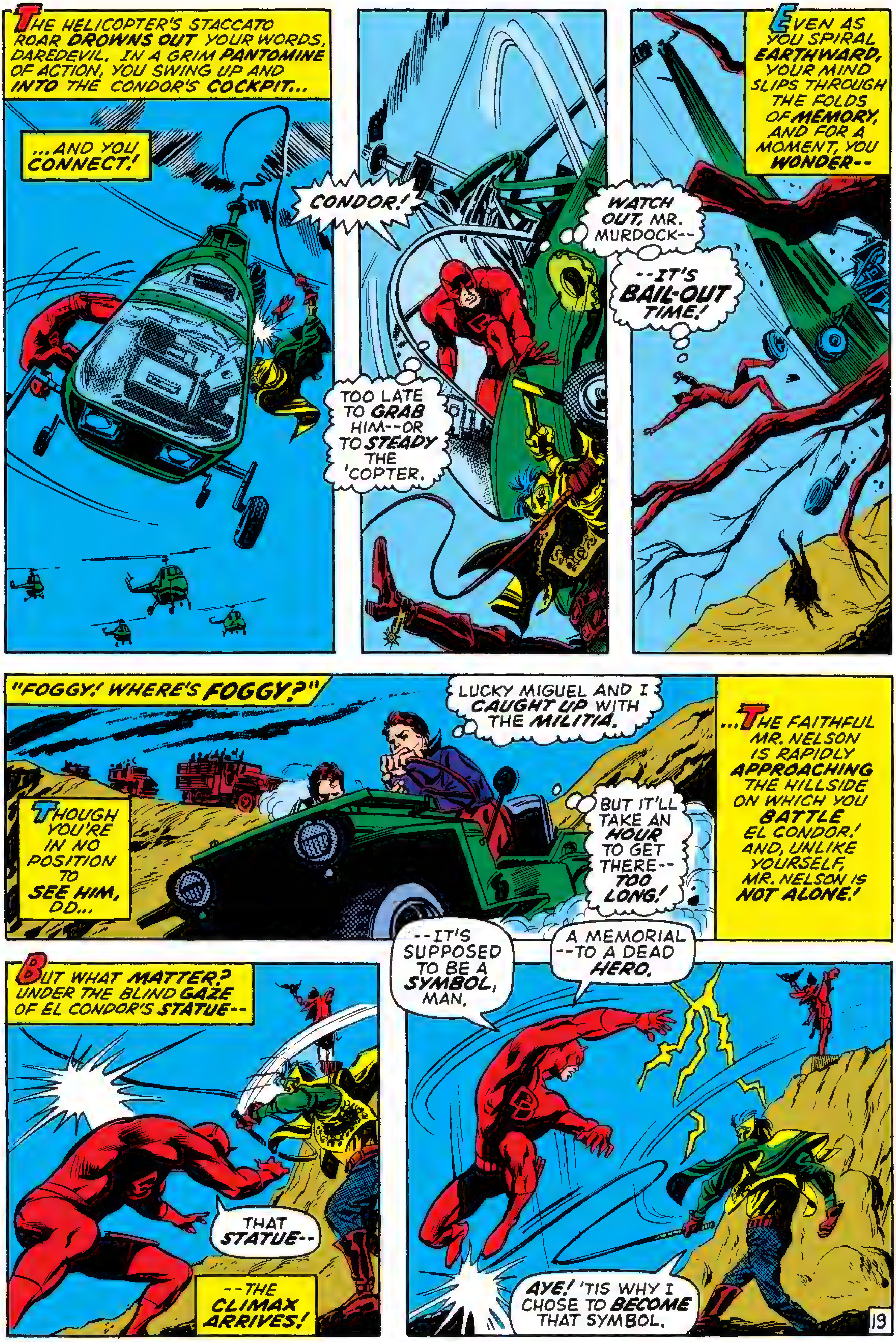

IS THERE A SINGLE THING YOU DON'T CONDEMN YOURSELF FOR, MATTHEW?
MUST YOU ALWAYS TAKE THE BLAME?
I THINK THAT PRETTY WELL TAKES CARE OF--
NOT SO FAST, MASKED MAN!
YOU WILL PLAY OUR GAME NOW--
--OR YOUR FRIEND IS DEAD!

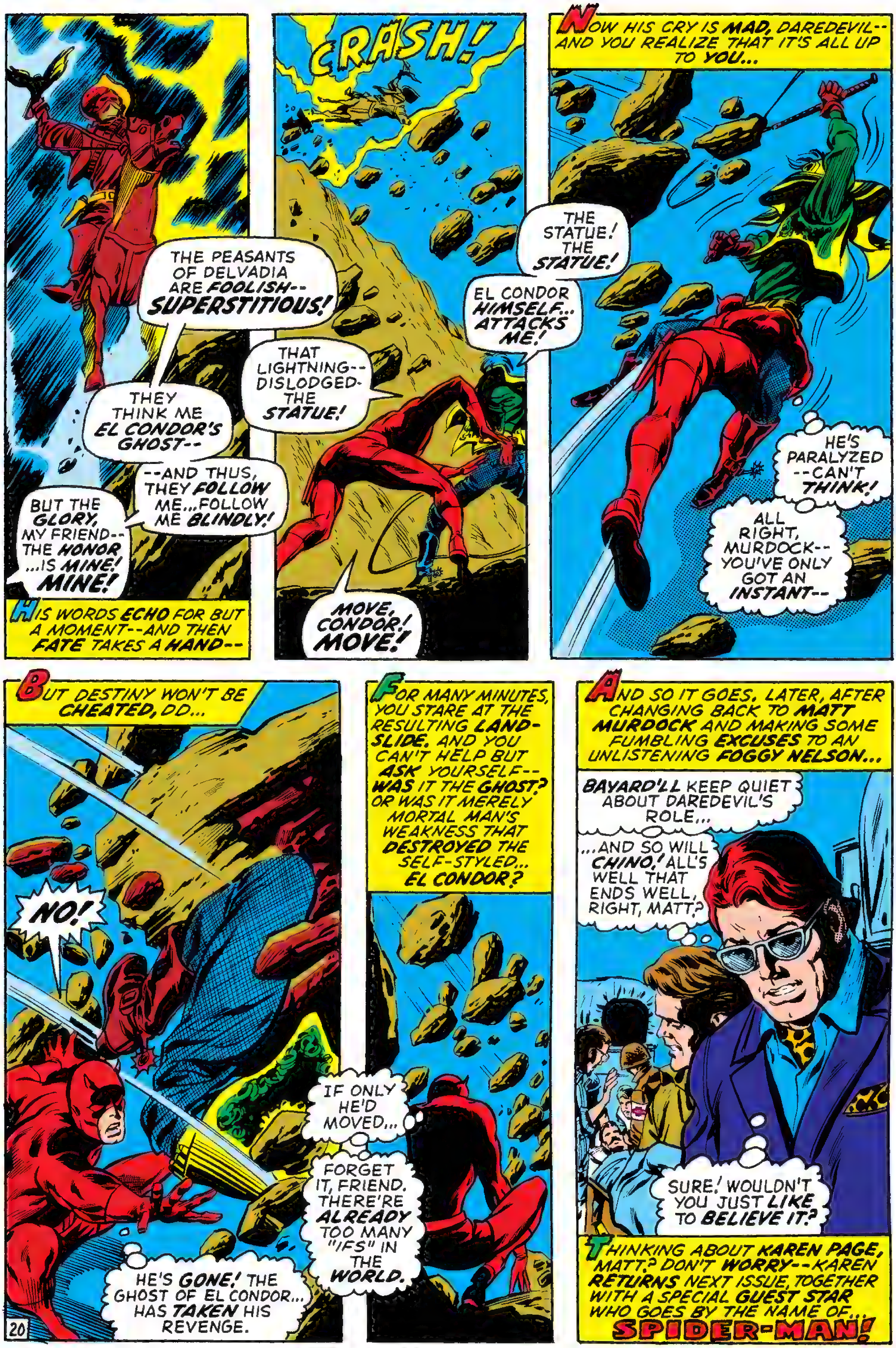

DO I HAVE A CHOICE?
NO CHOICE, SENIOR--NO CHOICE AT ALL!
AND WHAT OF YOUR FRIEND, FOGGY NELSON, DAREDEVIL? AT THIS MOMENT, HE'S AWAKENING IN THE ALLEY WHERE YOU LEFT HIM...
HEY, MEESTER--YOU NEED HELP, NO?
I NEED HELP, YES.
SOMEONE--MUST HAVE SLUGGED ME...
FOR A FEW AMERICAN NICKELS, I WILL GUIDE YOU TO YOUR EMBASSY, SEÑOR.
YOU'RE ON, SON.
IN THIS CONDITION--I COULDN'T FIND MY WAY ACROSS A STREET.
AND SOON, AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY...
AIIEEE! MY CHINO--HE EEZ SUCH A FOOL!
THAT'S THE STORY, MR. NELSON...
THINKS HE STILL YOUNG--LIKE A BOY.
...SHE SAYS HER HUSBAND'S GONE WITH BAYARD TO FIND EL CONDOR'S CAMP...!
EEET'S ALL RIGHT, MAMA--MISTER NELSON IS A GOOD MAN.
HE'LL FIND PAPA.
SURE, KID.
HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MILITIA?
YOU DO NOT. THEY'RE GONE.
WE CAN DO--NOTHING!


YOU KNOW WHAT FOGGY DOESN'T, DAREDEVIL--THAT THE ARMY IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY INTO THE HILLS--SEEKING OUT EL CONDOR, AND THE DIPLOMATS HE'S HOLDING AS HOSTAGES...
IF I CAN JUST... GET FREE--
THAT'S JUST FINE--CONSIDERING THAT EL CONDOR'S NO LONGER IN THOSE HILLS. RIGHT, MISTER BAYARD?
...MAYBE I CAN DO SOMETHING--INSTEAD OF JUST SITTING HERE. BLAST! IF I'D ONLY--
WHO'S THAT? WHO'S THERE?
DAREDEVIL!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BAYARD--BUT I'M NOT THE RESCUING CAVALRY.
QUIET! EL CONDOR HIMSELF WILL WANT TO SEE YOU, MASKED FOOL.
YOU'RE IN FOR QUITE A TREAT, DAREDEVIL.
BELIEVE ME!
AND SO YOU ARE, DAREDEVIL!
I HAVE HEARD OF YOU, MY FRIEND.
THE CONDOR HEARS OF MANY THINGS.
AARRK
I'LL JUST BET YOU DO.
YOU'D DO WELL TO WATCH YOUR TONGUE, DAREDEVIL--
--LEST MY BEAST TAKES OFFENSE AT YOUR WORDS.
HE LOVES ME--AS I LOVE THIS LAND.
A LAND--WHICH SHALL SOON BE MINE!
THE TIME FOR WORDS HAS PASSED.
NOW... WE ACT!

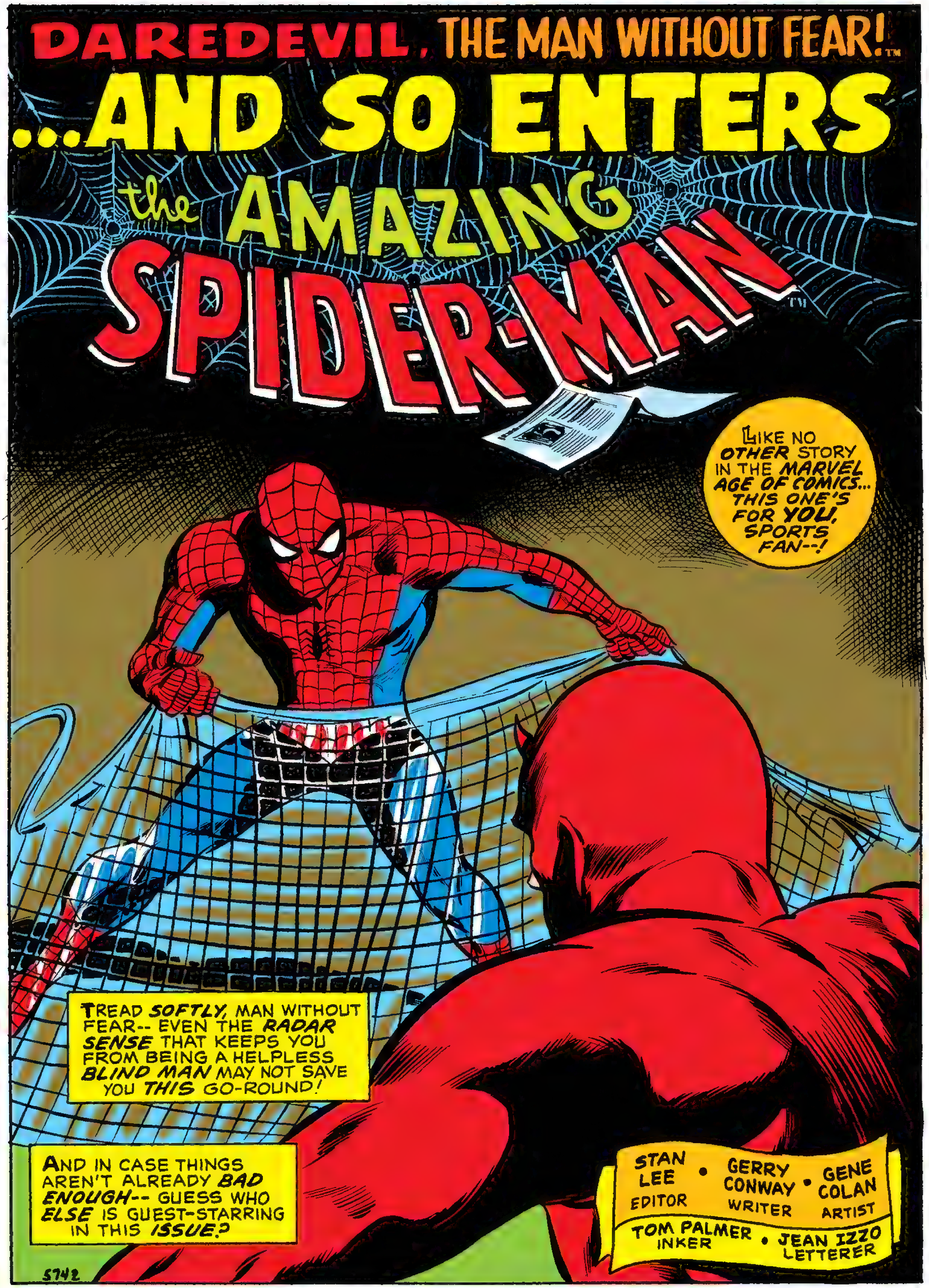

LIKE SOME MACABRE CLOAKED NIGHTMARE, EL CONDOR WHIRLS AND STALKS AWAY, LEAVING YOU REASONABLY ALONE, DAREDEVIL...
NOW WHAT, AMIGO?
NOW YOU WAIT, DEMON. WITHIN AN HOUR, THE CAPITAL WILL BE OURS.
AND WHEN THE CAPITAL FALLS--SO SHALL ALL DELVADIA!
WHY, MAN? WHY?
SOME HERE CLAIM TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. SO THEY MAY. BUT WHAT IS THIS FREEDOM, EH, SEÑOR?
I DO NOT KNOW...OR CARE. I FOLLOW EL CONDOR FOR THE FRUITS OF CONQUEST.
BUT ENOUGH. IT IS TIME.
YOU KNOW THE AGONY OF HELPLESSNESS, AS YOU LISTEN TO THE SHRILL VOICE OF EL CONDOR FILL THE CAVERN...
WHEN WE STRIKE--WE STRIKE FOR OUR OPPRESSED COUNTRYMEN.
REMEMBER THIS! OURS IS A BLOW FOR FREEDOM!
IT'S A PITY ALL YOUR MEN DON'T SHARE YOUR ALTRUISM, CONDOR. WHO'S LEADING WHOM?
YOU STRAIN, BRINGING THE ROPES AGAINST THE SHARP EDGE OF JAGGED ROCK AT YOUR BACK...

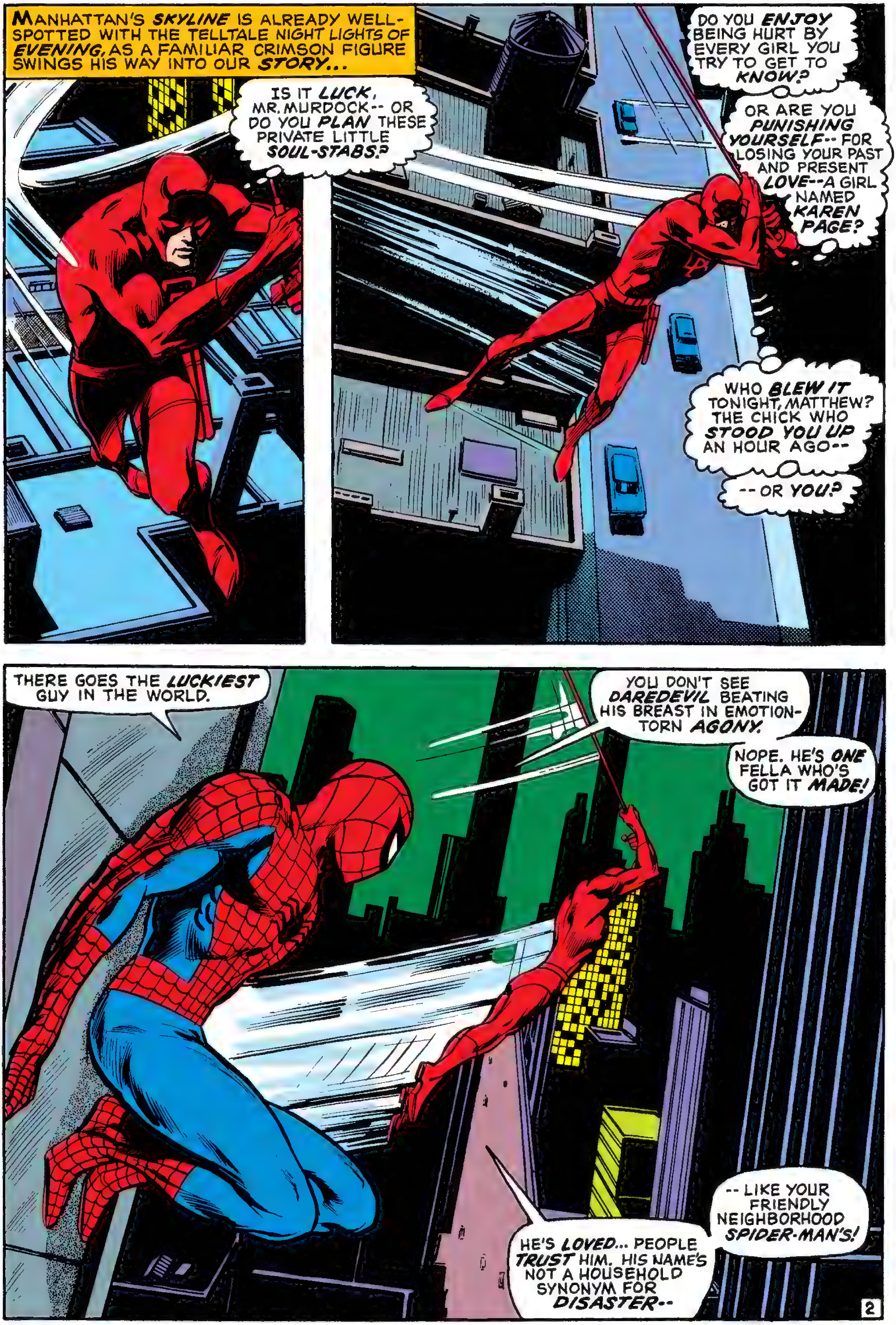

YOUR MUSCLES ACHE WITH THE PRESSURE--YOUR BONES FEEL LIKE BREAKING! THEN--
FREE! NOW FOR BAYARD!
WWIIT
WWIITWIT
HURRY, DAREDEVIL. THE HELI-COPTERS--!
DON'T WORRY, KEITH--
WWIITT
FOOLS! THE TWO OF THEM ARE FREE!
--THIS KIND OF ACTION'S RIGHT IN MY STYLE.
BROTHER, THAT'S A LOVELY SOUND.
-URK!-
YOU ARE A DEAD MAN! MY DESTINY IS VICTORY!
KEEP RIGHT ON DREAMING, BIG MAN.
FROM THIS POINT ON, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF CLEANING UP.
KILL HIM! KILL HIM!
SAY, FRIEND-- HAS THAT BIRD HAD ITS SHOTS?
AARRK

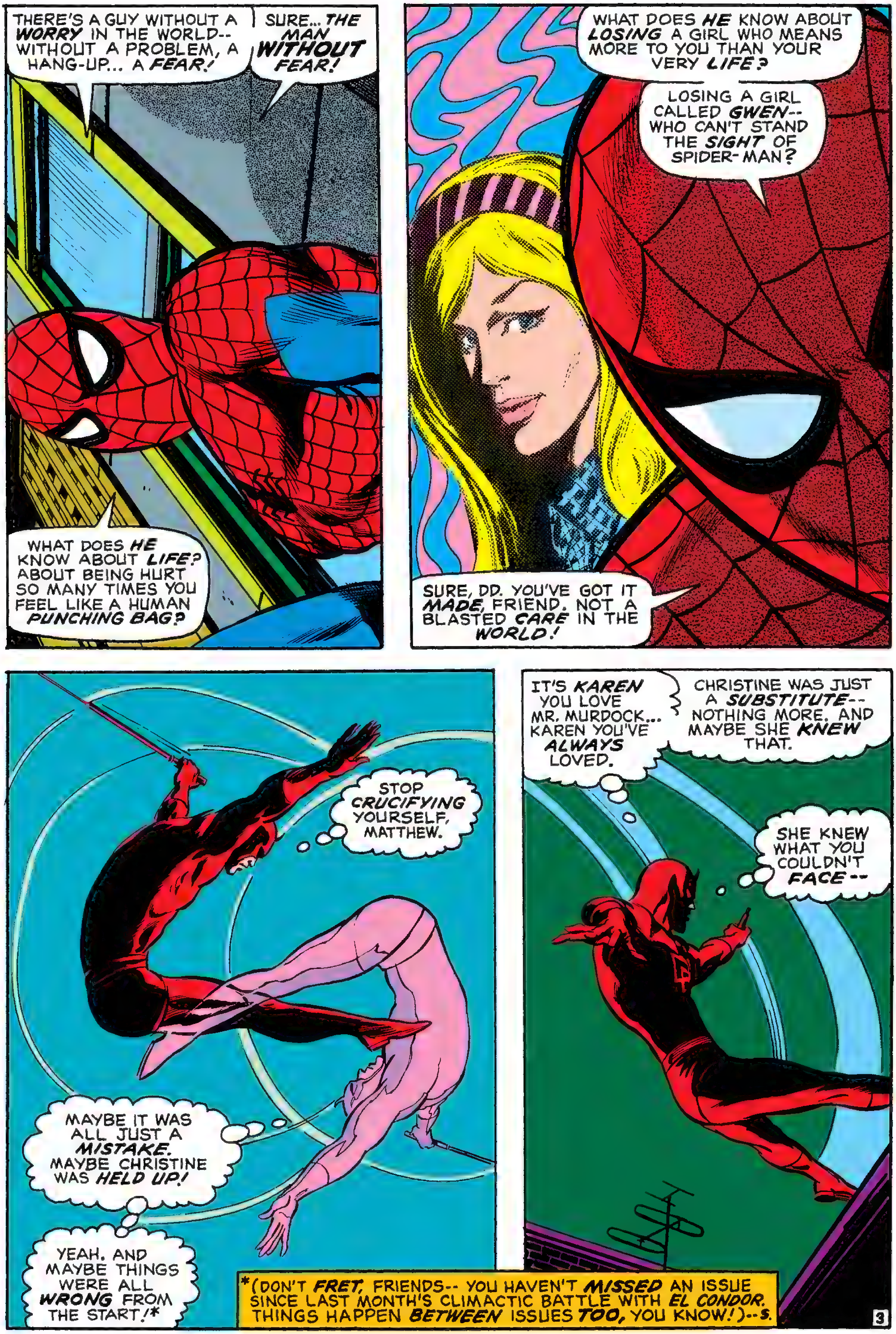

THE HELICOPTER'S STACCATO ROAR DROWNS OUT YOUR WORDS, DAREDEVIL. IN A GRIM PANTOMINE OF ACTION, YOU SWING UP AND INTO THE CONDOR'S COCKPIT...
...AND YOU CONNECT!
CONDOR!
TOO LATE TO GRAB HIM--OR TO STEADY THE 'COPTER.
WATCH OUT, MR. MURDOCK--
--IT'S BAIL-OUT TIME!
EVEN AS YOU SPIRAL EARTHWARD, YOUR MIND SLIPS THROUGH THE FOLDS OF MEMORY, AND FOR A MOMENT, YOU WONDER--
"FOGGY! WHERE'S FOGGY?"
LUCKY MIGUEL AND I CAUGHT UP WITH THE MILITIA.
BUT IT'LL TAKE AN HOUR TO GET THERE--TOO LONG!
THOUGH YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO SEE HIM, DD...
...THE FAITHFUL MR. NELSON IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE HILLSIDE ON WHICH YOU BATTLE EL CONDOR! AND, UNLIKE YOURSELF, MR. NELSON IS NOT ALONE!
BUT WHAT MATTER? UNDER THE BLIND GAZE OF EL CONDOR'S STATUE--
THAT STATUE--
--THE CLIMAX ARRIVES!
--IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SYMBOL, MAN.
A MEMORIAL--TO A DEAD HERO.
AYE! 'TIS WHY I CHOSE TO BECOME THAT SYMBOL.

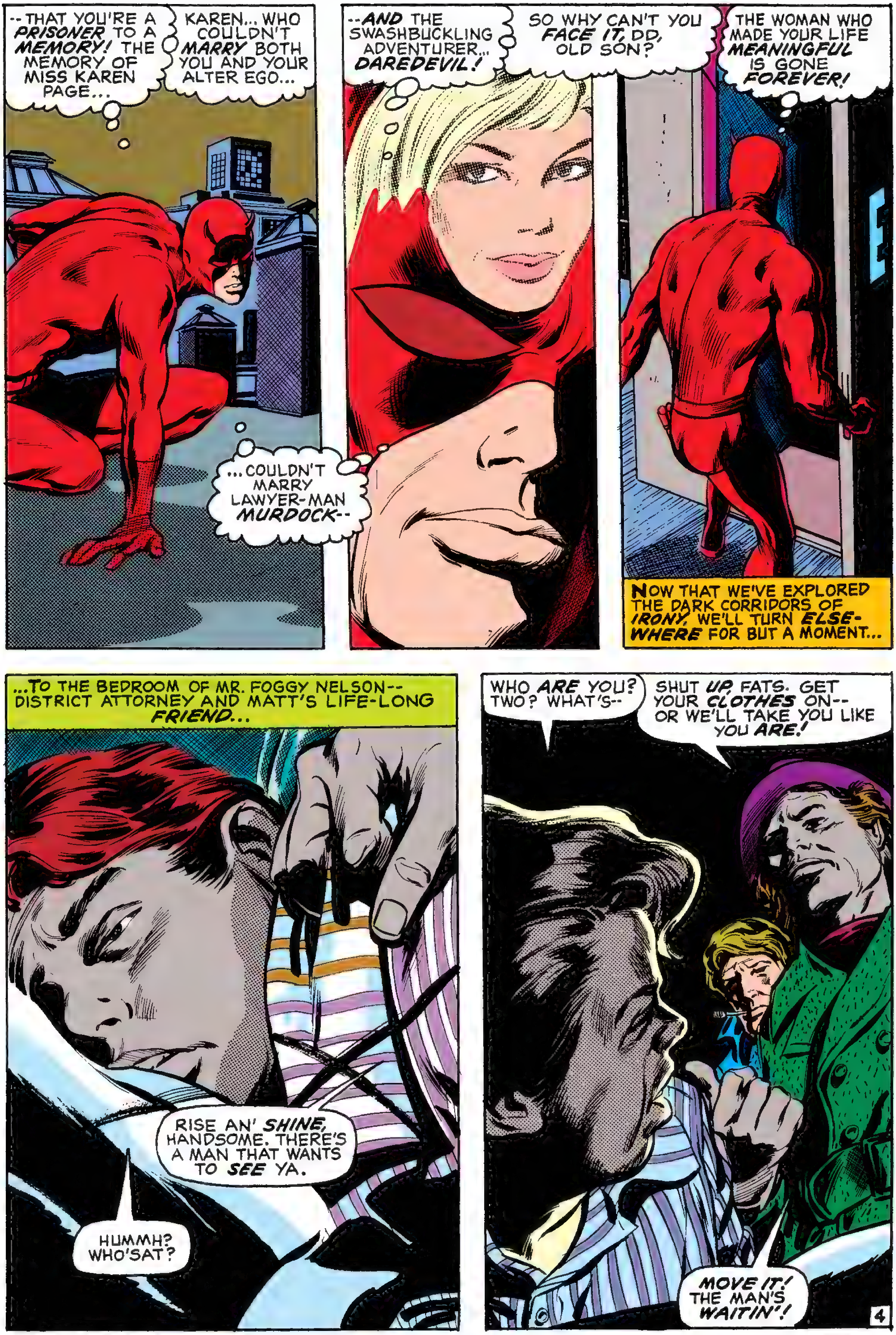

THE PEASANTS OF DELVADIA ARE FOOLISH-- SUPERSTITIOUS!
THEY THINK ME EL CONDOR'S GHOST--
--AND THUS, THEY FOLLOW ME...FOLLOW ME BLINDLY!
BUT THE GLORY, MY FRIEND-- THE HONOR ...IS MINE! MINE!
HIS WORDS ECHO FOR BUT A MOMENT--AND THEN FATE TAKES A HAND--
CRASH!
THAT LIGHTNING-- DISLODGED THE STATUE!
THE STATUE! THE STATUE!
EL CONDOR HIMSELF... ATTACKS ME!
MOVE, CONDOR! MOVE!
NOW HIS CRY IS MAD, DAREDEVIL-- AND YOU REALIZE THAT IT'S ALL UP TO YOU...
HE'S PARALYZED --CAN'T THINK!
ALL RIGHT, MURDOCK-- YOU'VE ONLY GOT AN INSTANT--
BUT DESTINY WON'T BE CHEATED, DD...
NO!
HE'S GONE! THE GHOST OF EL CONDOR... HAS TAKEN HIS REVENGE.
FOR MANY MINUTES, YOU STARE AT THE RESULTING LANDSLIDE. AND YOU CAN'T HELP BUT ASK YOURSELF-- WAS IT THE GHOST? OR WAS IT MERELY MORTAL MAN'S WEAKNESS THAT DESTROYED THE SELF-STYLED... EL CONDOR?
IF ONLY HE'D MOVED...
FORGET IT, FRIEND. THERE'RE ALREADY TOO MANY "IFS" IN THE WORLD.
AND SO IT GOES. LATER, AFTER CHANGING BACK TO MATT MURDOCK AND MAKING SOME FUMBLING EXCUSES TO AN UNLISTENING FOGGY NELSON...
BAYARD'LL KEEP QUIET ABOUT DAREDEVIL'S ROLE...
...AND SO WILL CHINO! ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, RIGHT, MATT?
SURE! WOULDN'T YOU JUST LIKE TO BELIEVE IT?
THINKING ABOUT KAREN PAGE, MATT? DON'T WORRY--KAREN RETURNS NEXT ISSUE, TOGETHER WITH A SPECIAL GUEST STAR WHO GOES BY THE NAME OF... SPIDER-MAN!

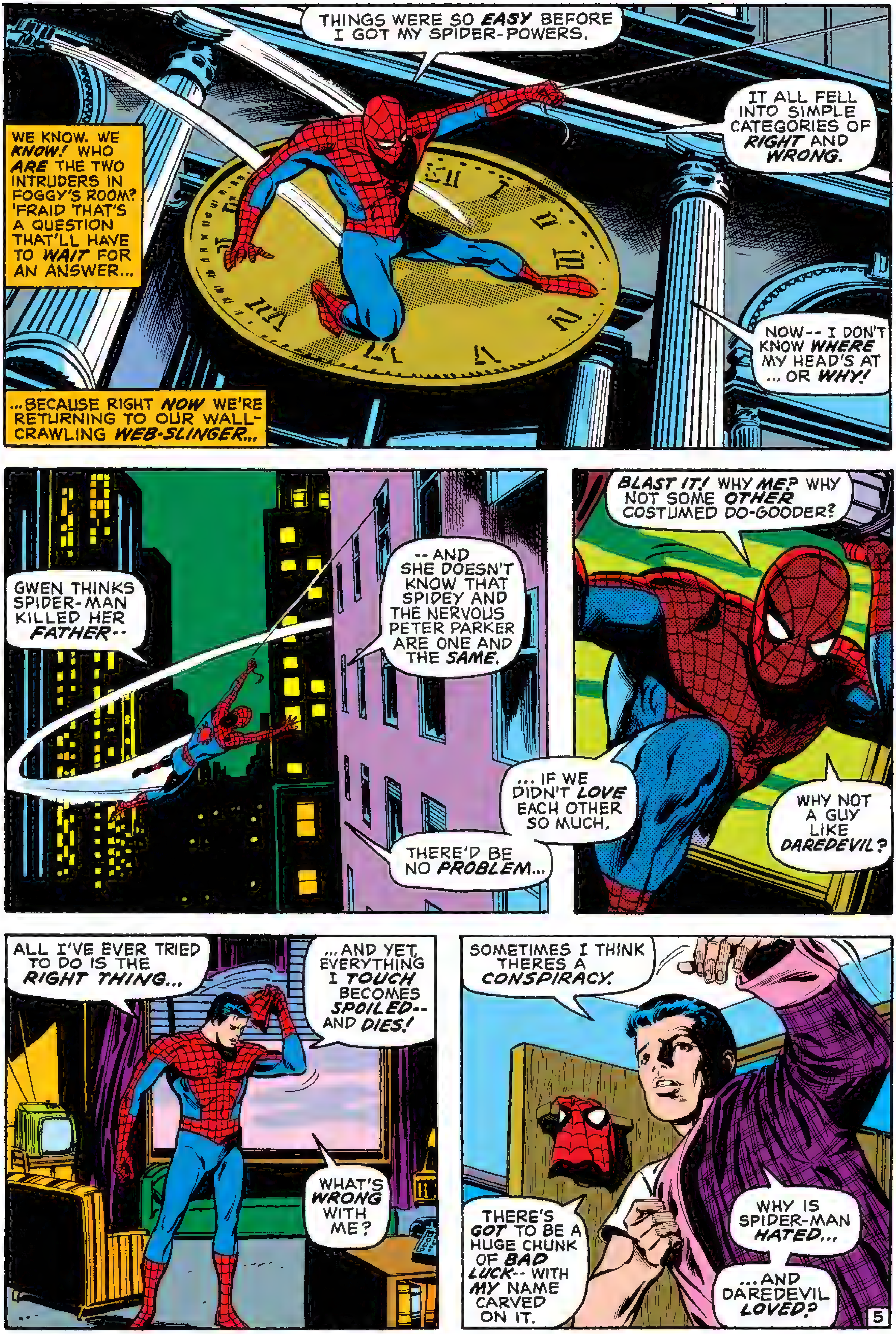
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
77
JUNE
02459
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL™
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
THANKS FOR CREAMING OL' HORNHEAD FOR ME, NAMOR!
THAT LEAVES ME FREE-- TO TOTAL YOU!
A THREE-IN-ONE TRIUMPH FOR MAGNIFICENT MARVEL!
GUEST STARRING: THE SUB-MARINER AND YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

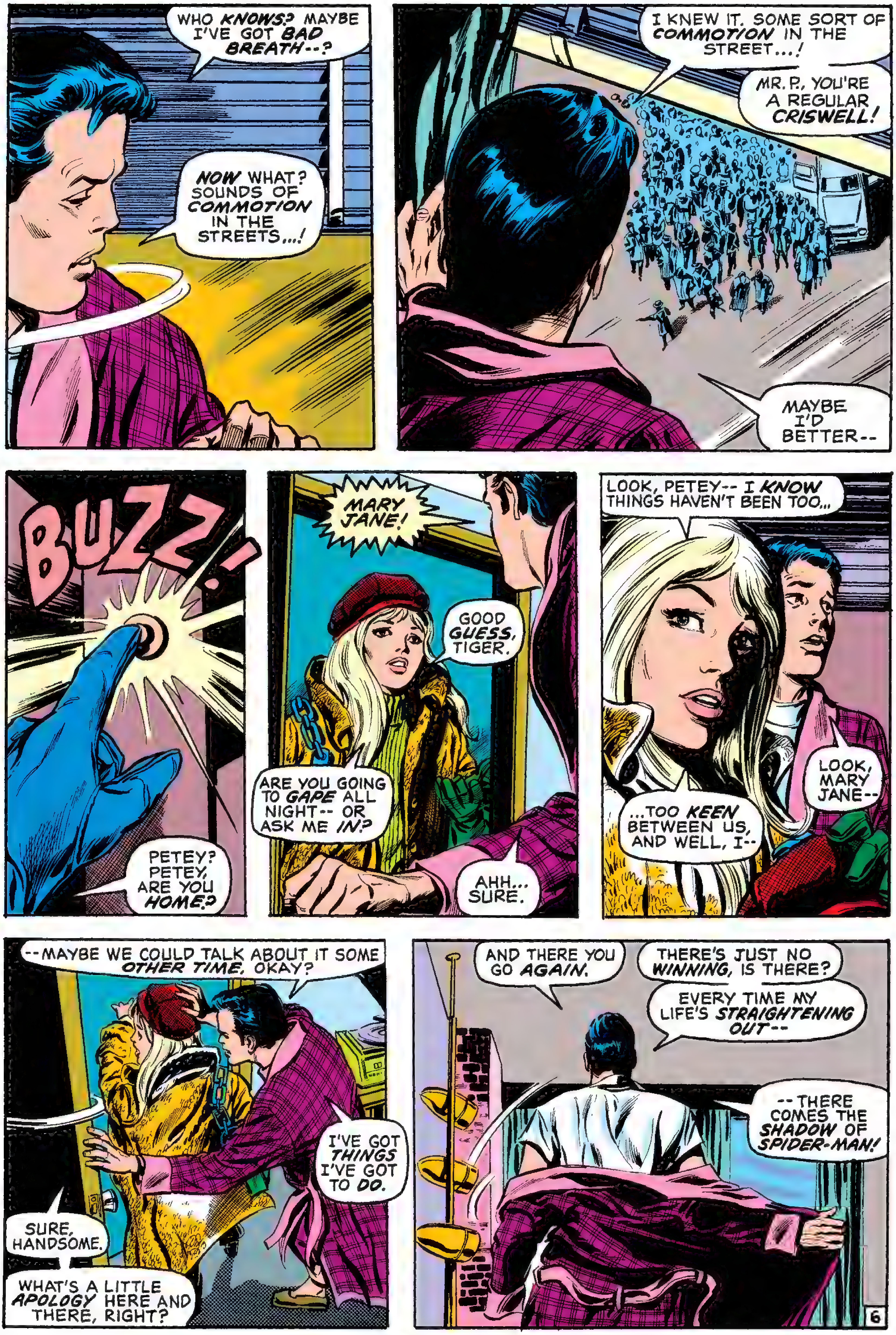

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™
...AND SO ENTERS
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™
LIKE NO OTHER STORY IN THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS... THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, SPORTS FAN--!
TREAD SOFTLY, MAN WITHOUT FEAR-- EVEN THE RADAR SENSE THAT KEEPS YOU FROM BEING A HELPLESS BLIND MAN MAY NOT SAVE YOU THIS GO-ROUND!
AND IN CASE THINGS AREN'T ALREADY BAD ENOUGH-- GUESS WHO ELSE IS GUEST-STARRING IN THIS ISSUE?
STAN LEE EDITOR • GERRY CONWAY WRITER • GENE COLAN ARTIST
TOM PALMER INKER • JEAN IZZO LETTERER
5742

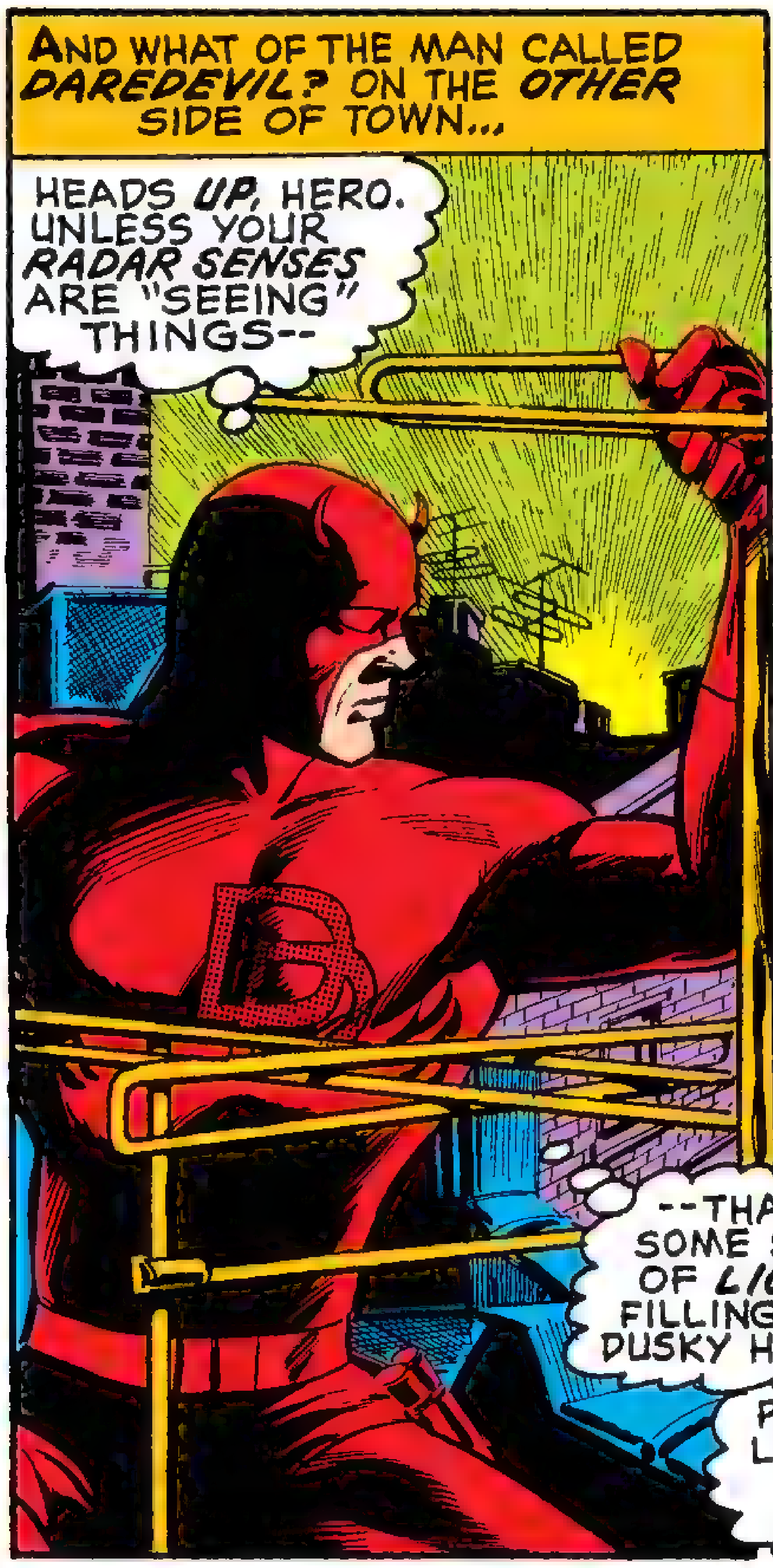

MANHATTAN'S SKYLINE IS ALREADY WELL-SPOTTED WITH THE TELLTALE NIGHT LIGHTS OF EVENING, AS A FAMILIAR CRIMSON FIGURE SWINGS HIS WAY INTO OUR STORY...
IS IT LUCK, MR. MURDOCK-- OR DO YOU PLAN THESE PRIVATE LITTLE SOUL-STABS?
DO YOU ENJOY BEING HURT BY EVERY GIRL YOU TRY TO GET TO KNOW?
OR ARE YOU PUNISHING YOURSELF-- FOR LOSING YOUR PAST AND PRESENT LOVE--A GIRL NAMED KAREN PAGE?
WHO BLEW IT TONIGHT, MATTHEW? THE CHICK WHO STOOD YOU UP AN HOUR AGO--
--OR YOU?
THERE GOES THE LUCKIEST GUY IN THE WORLD.
YOU DON'T SEE DAREDEVIL BEATING HIS BREAST IN EMOTION-TORN AGONY.
NOPE. HE'S ONE FELLA WHO'S GOT IT MADE!
HE'S LOVED... PEOPLE TRUST HIM. HIS NAME'S NOT A HOUSEHOLD SYNONYM FOR DISASTER--
--LIKE YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN'S!

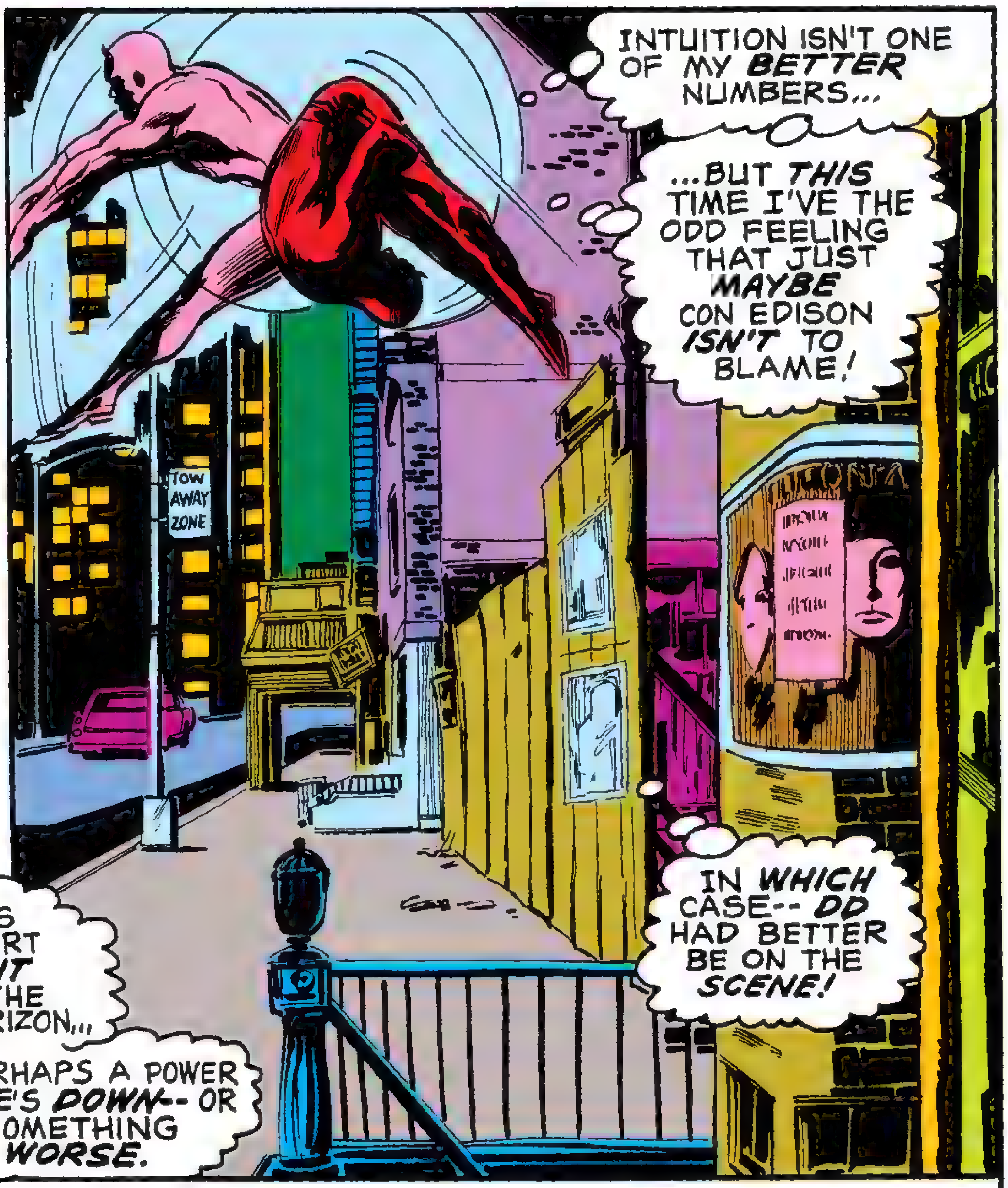

THERE'S A GUY WITHOUT A WORRY IN THE WORLD-- WITHOUT A PROBLEM, A HANG-UP... A FEAR!
SURE... THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
WHAT DOES HE KNOW ABOUT LIFE? ABOUT BEING HURT SO MANY TIMES YOU FEEL LIKE A HUMAN PUNCHING BAG?
WHAT DOES HE KNOW ABOUT LOSING A GIRL WHO MEANS MORE TO YOU THAN YOUR VERY LIFE?
LOSING A GIRL CALLED GWEN-- WHO CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF SPIDER-MAN?
SURE, DD. YOU'VE GOT IT MADE, FRIEND. NOT A BLASTED CARE IN THE WORLD!
STOP CRUCIFYING YOURSELF, MATTHEW.
MAYBE IT WAS ALL JUST A MISTAKE. MAYBE CHRISTINE WAS HELD UP!
YEAH, AND MAYBE THINGS WERE ALL WRONG FROM THE START!*
IT'S KAREN YOU LOVE MR. MURDOCK... KAREN YOU'VE ALWAYS LOVED.
CHRISTINE WAS JUST A SUBSTITUTE-- NOTHING MORE. AND MAYBE SHE KNEW THAT.
SHE KNEW WHAT YOU COULDN'T FACE--
*(DON'T FRET, FRIENDS-- YOU HAVEN'T MISSED AN ISSUE SINCE LAST MONTH'S CLIMACTIC BATTLE WITH EL CONDOR. THINGS HAPPEN BETWEEN ISSUES TOO, YOU KNOW!)--S.

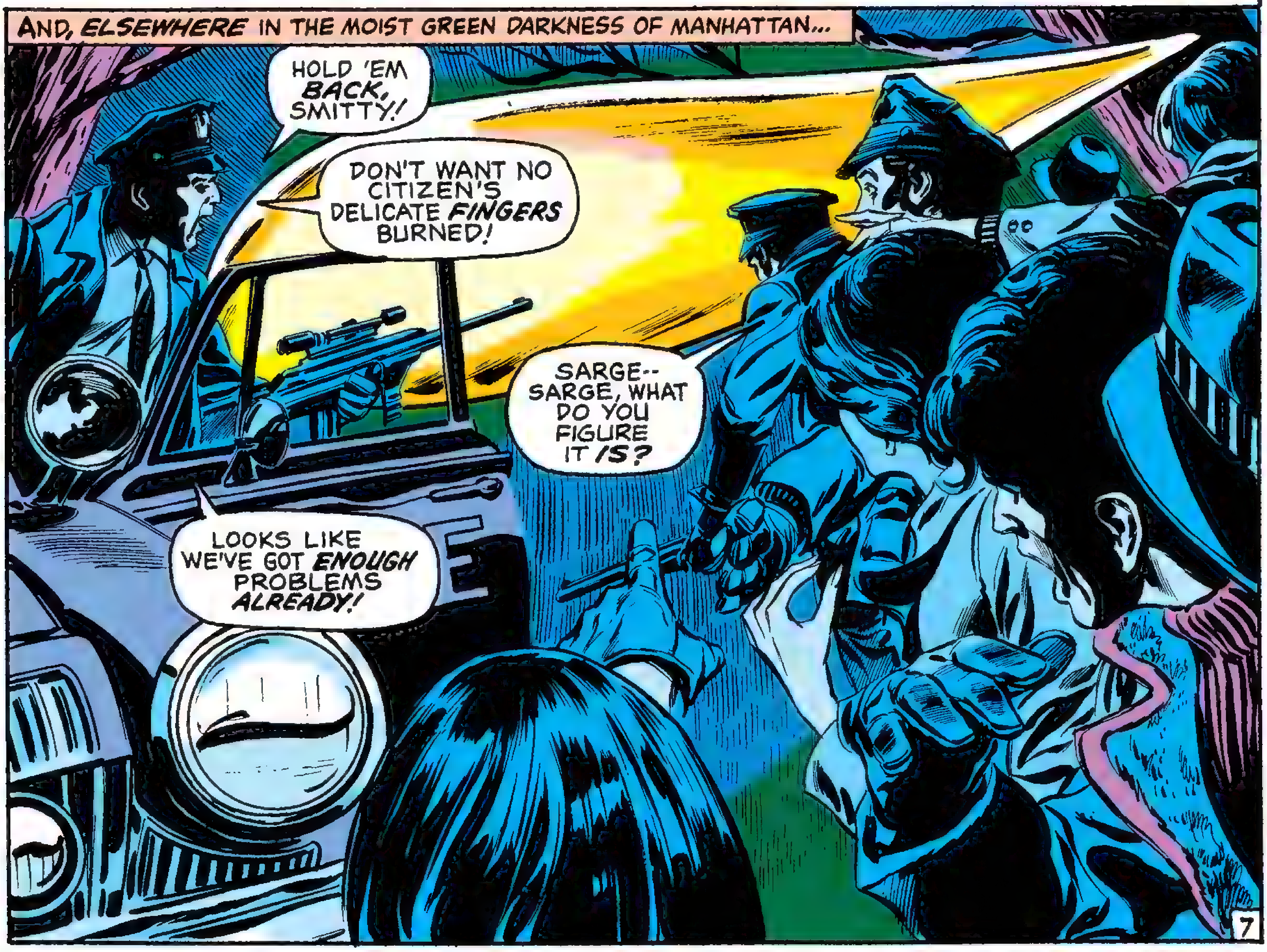

--THAT YOU'RE A PRISONER TO A MEMORY! THE MEMORY OF MISS KAREN PAGE...
KAREN... WHO COULDN'T MARRY BOTH YOU AND YOUR ALTER EGO...
...COULDN'T MARRY LAWYER-MAN MURDOCK--
--AND THE SWASHBUCKLING ADVENTURER... DAREDEVIL!
SO WHY CAN'T YOU FACE IT, DD, OLD SON?
THE WOMAN WHO MADE YOUR LIFE MEANINGFUL IS GONE FOREVER!
NOW THAT WE'VE EXPLORED THE DARK CORRIDORS OF IRONY, WE'LL TURN ELSEWHERE FOR BUT A MOMENT...
...TO THE BEDROOM OF MR. FOGGY NELSON--DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND MATT'S LIFE-LONG FRIEND...
RISE AN' SHINE, HANDSOME. THERE'S A MAN THAT WANTS TO SEE YA.
HUMMH? WHO'SAT?
WHO ARE YOU? TWO? WHAT'S--
SHUT UP, FATS. GET YOUR CLOTHES ON--OR WE'LL TAKE YOU LIKE YOU ARE!
MOVE IT! THE MAN'S WAITIN'!

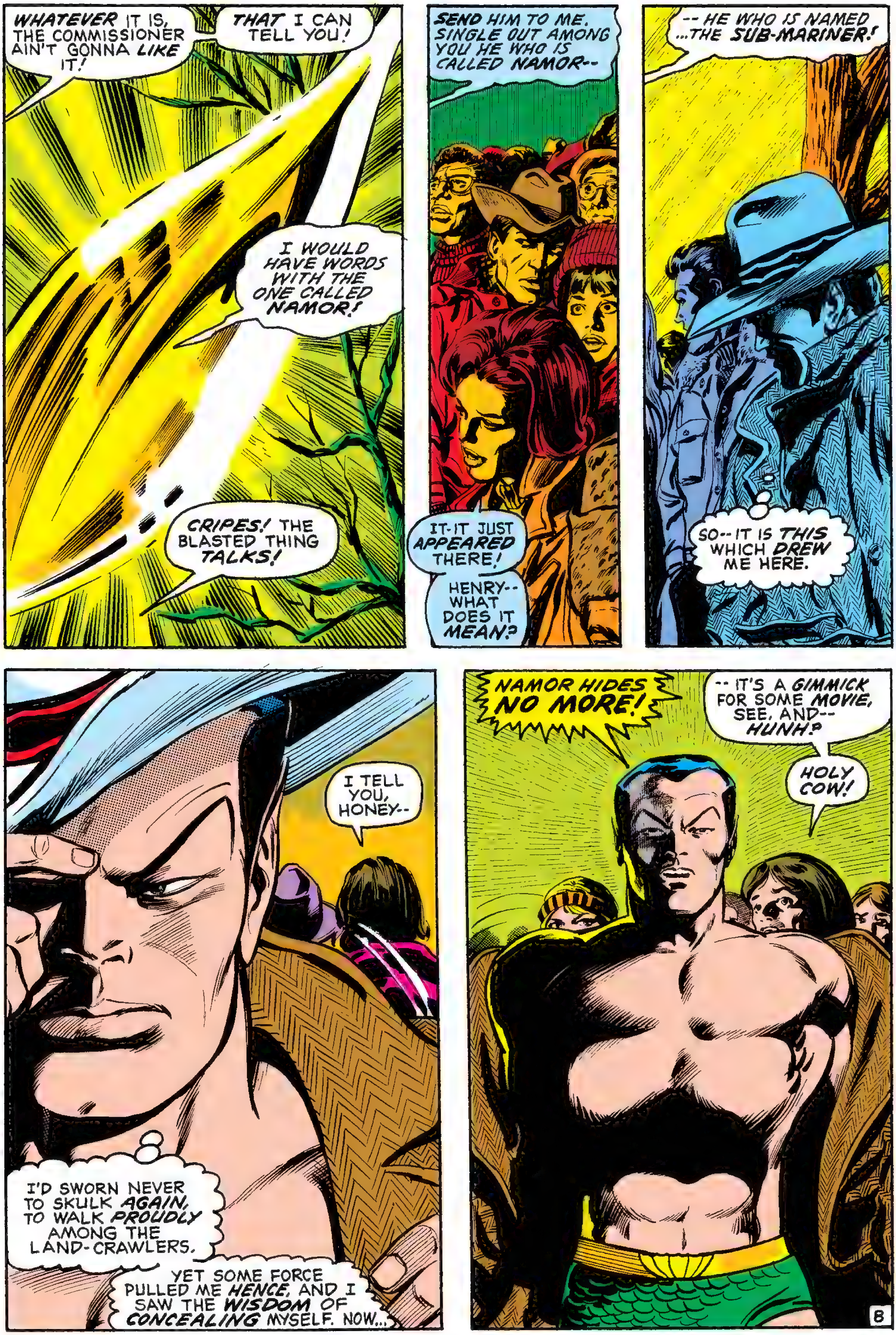

THINGS WERE SO *EASY* BEFORE I GOT MY SPIDER-POWERS.
WE KNOW. WE *KNOW!* WHO *ARE* THE TWO INTRUDERS IN FOGGY'S ROOM? 'FRAID THAT'S A QUESTION THAT'LL HAVE TO *WAIT* FOR AN ANSWER...
IT ALL FELL INTO SIMPLE CATEGORIES OF *RIGHT* AND *WRONG.*
NOW-- I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* MY HEAD'S AT ... OR *WHY!*
...BECAUSE RIGHT *NOW* WE'RE RETURNING TO OUR WALL-CRAWLING *WEB-SLINGER*...
GWEN THINKS SPIDER-MAN KILLED HER *FATHER*--
-- AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT SPIDEY AND THE NERVOUS PETER PARKER ARE ONE AND THE *SAME.*
... IF WE DIDN'T *LOVE* EACH OTHER SO MUCH,
THERE'D BE NO *PROBLEM*...
BLAST IT! WHY *ME?* WHY NOT SOME *OTHER* COSTUMED DO-GOODER?
WHY NOT A GUY LIKE *DAREDEVIL?*
ALL I'VE EVER TRIED TO DO IS THE *RIGHT THING*...
...AND YET, EVERYTHING I *TOUCH* BECOMES *SPOILED*-- AND *DIES!*
WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH ME?
SOMETIMES I THINK THERE'S A *CONSPIRACY.*
THERE'S *GOT* TO BE A HUGE CHUNK OF *BAD LUCK*-- WITH *MY* NAME CARVED ON IT.
WHY IS SPIDER-MAN *HATED*...
... AND DAREDEVIL *LOVED?*

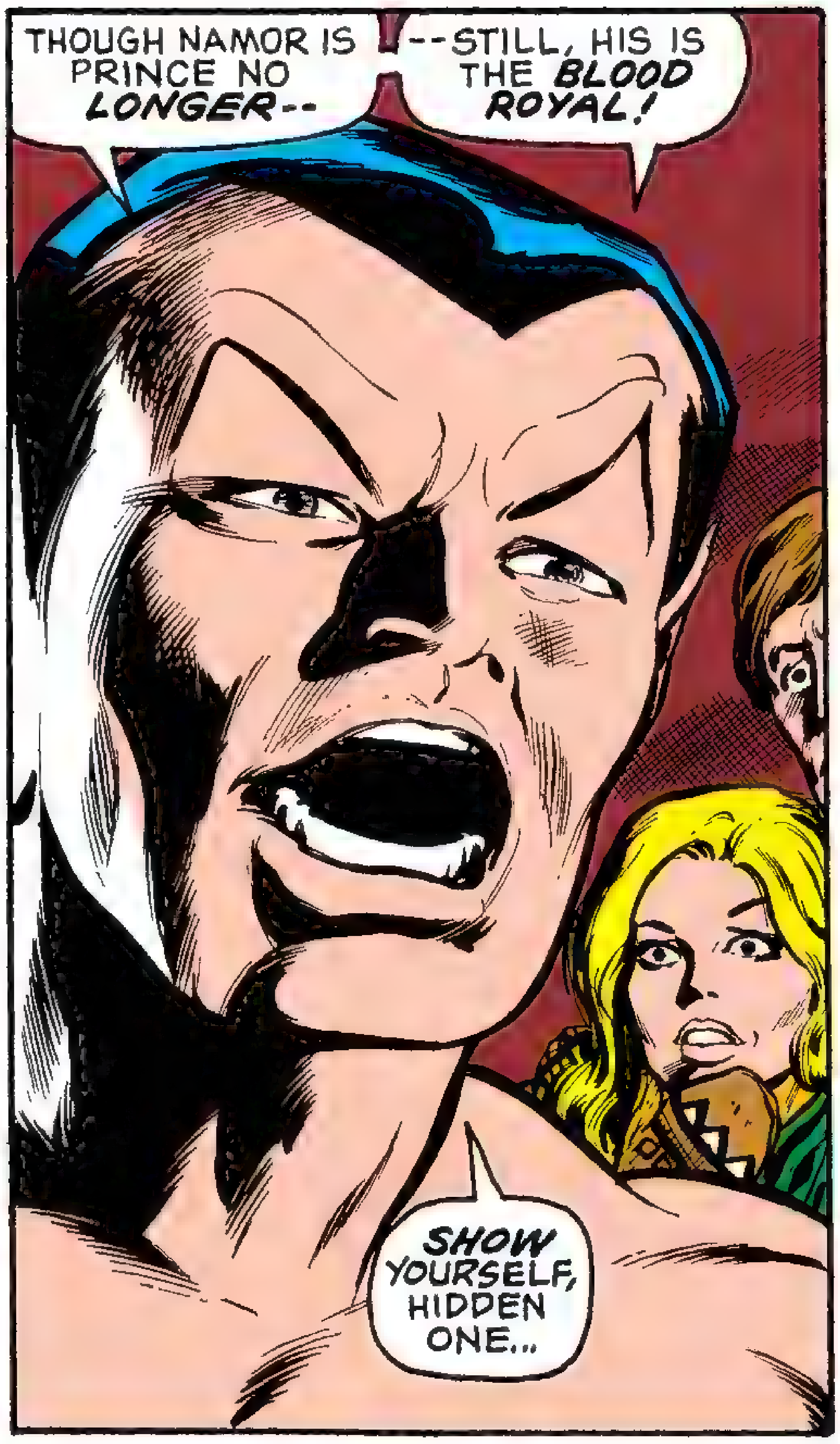

WHO KNOWS? MAYBE I'VE GOT BAD BREATH--?
NOW WHAT? SOUNDS OF COMMOTION IN THE STREETS...!
I KNEW IT. SOME SORT OF COMMOTION IN THE STREET...!
MR. P., YOU'RE A REGULAR CRISWELL!
MAYBE I'D BETTER--
BUZZ!
PETEY? PETEY, ARE YOU HOME?
MARY JANE!
GOOD GUESS, TIGER.
ARE YOU GOING TO GAPE ALL NIGHT-- OR ASK ME IN?
AHH... SURE.
LOOK, PETEY-- I KNOW THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN TOO...
...TOO KEEN BETWEEN US, AND WELL, I--
LOOK, MARY JANE--
--MAYBE WE COULD TALK ABOUT IT SOME OTHER TIME, OKAY?
I'VE GOT THINGS I'VE GOT TO DO.
SURE, HANDSOME.
WHAT'S A LITTLE APOLOGY HERE AND THERE, RIGHT?
AND THERE YOU GO AGAIN.
THERE'S JUST NO WINNING, IS THERE?
EVERY TIME MY LIFE'S STRAIGHTENING OUT--
--THERE COMES THE SHADOW OF SPIDER-MAN!
6

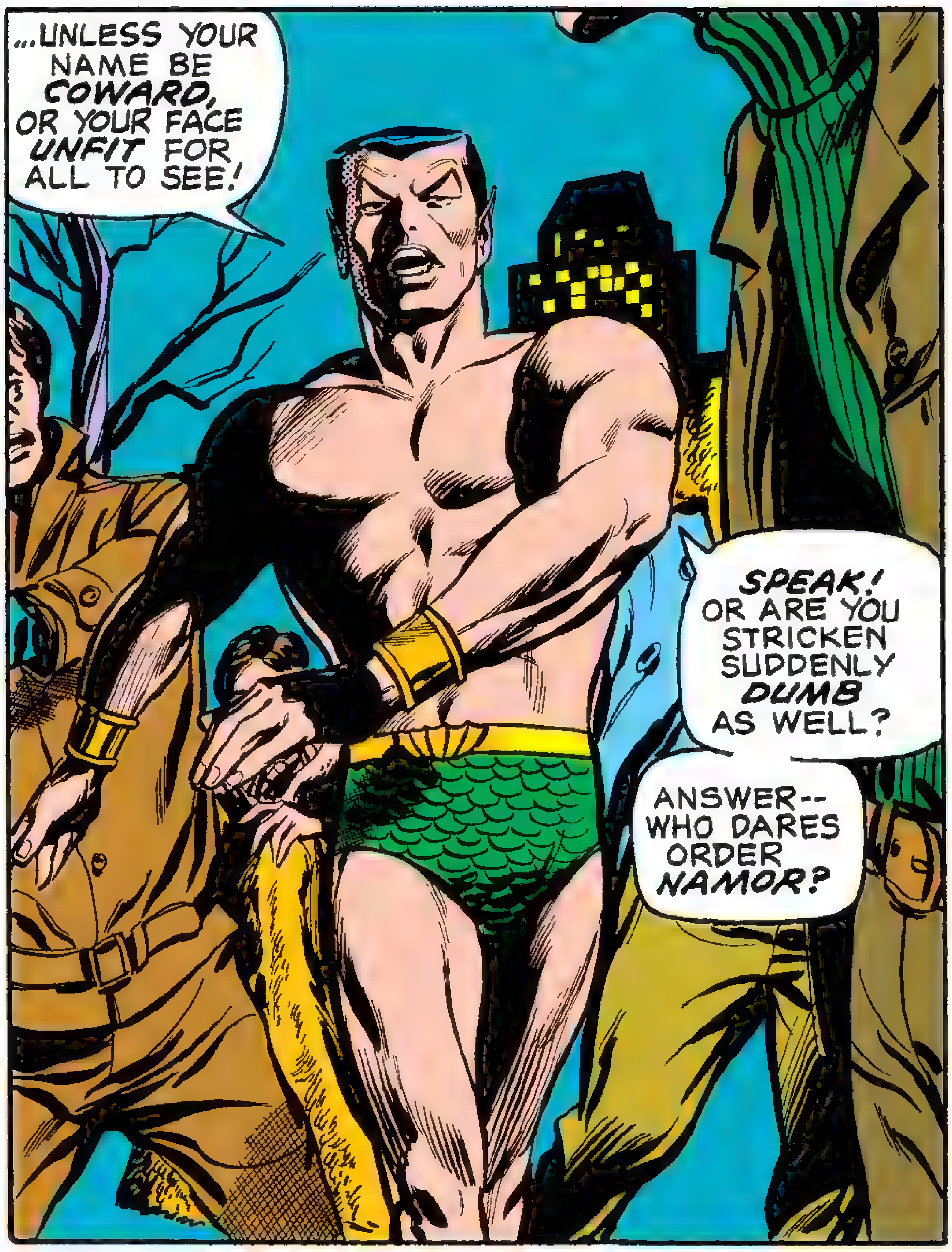

AND WHAT OF THE MAN CALLED *DAREDEVIL?* ON THE *OTHER* SIDE OF TOWN...
HEADS *UP,* HERO. UNLESS YOUR *RADAR SENSES* ARE "SEEING" THINGS--
--THAT'S SOME SORT OF *LIGHT* FILLING THE DUSKY HORIZON...
PERHAPS A POWER LINE'S *DOWN*-- OR SOMETHING *WORSE.*

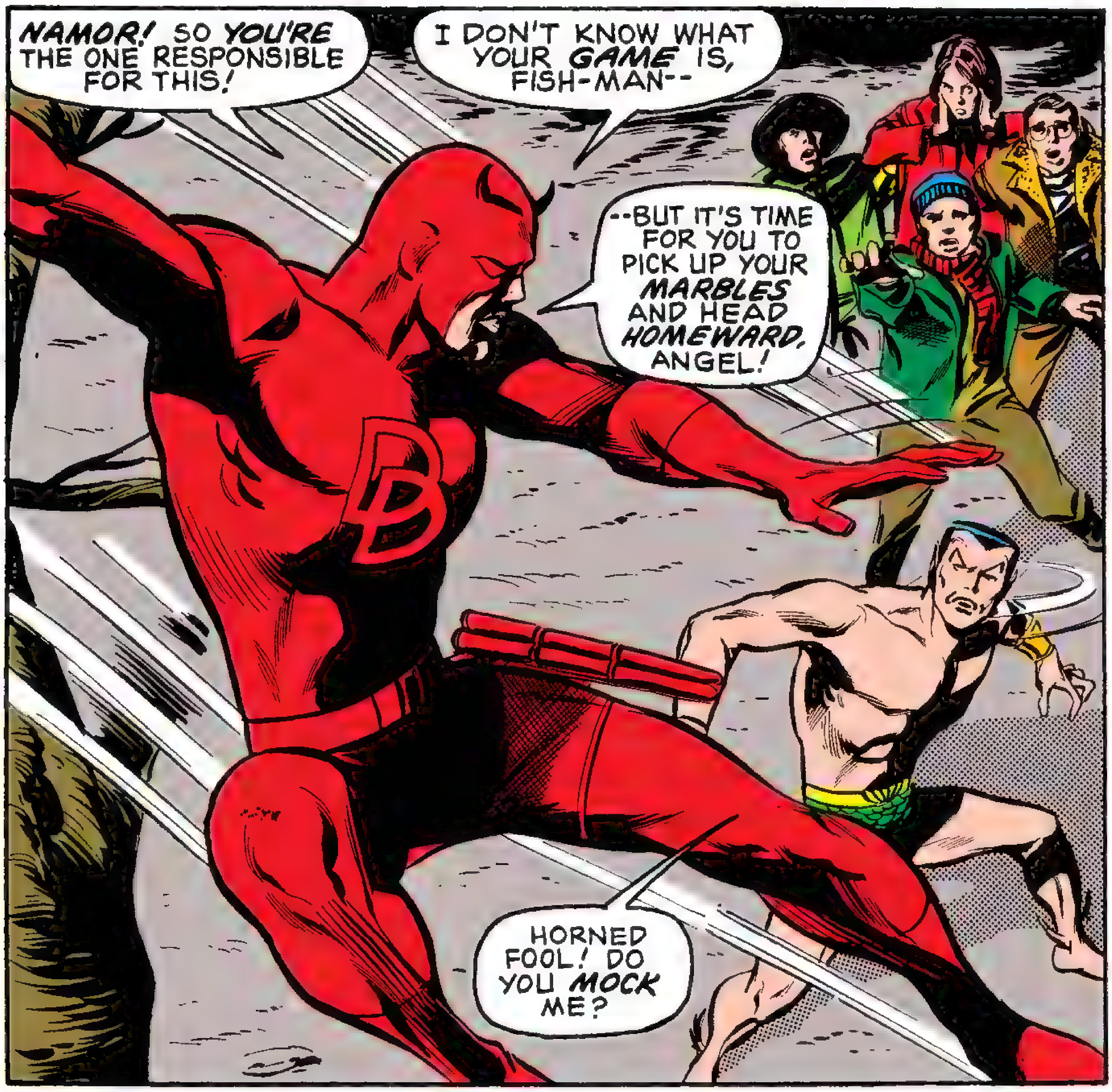

INTUITION ISN'T ONE OF MY *BETTER* NUMBERS...
...BUT *THIS* TIME I'VE THE ODD FEELING THAT JUST *MAYBE* CON EDISON *ISN'T* TO BLAME!
TOW AWAY ZONE
IN *WHICH* CASE-- *DD* HAD BETTER BE ON THE *SCENE!*

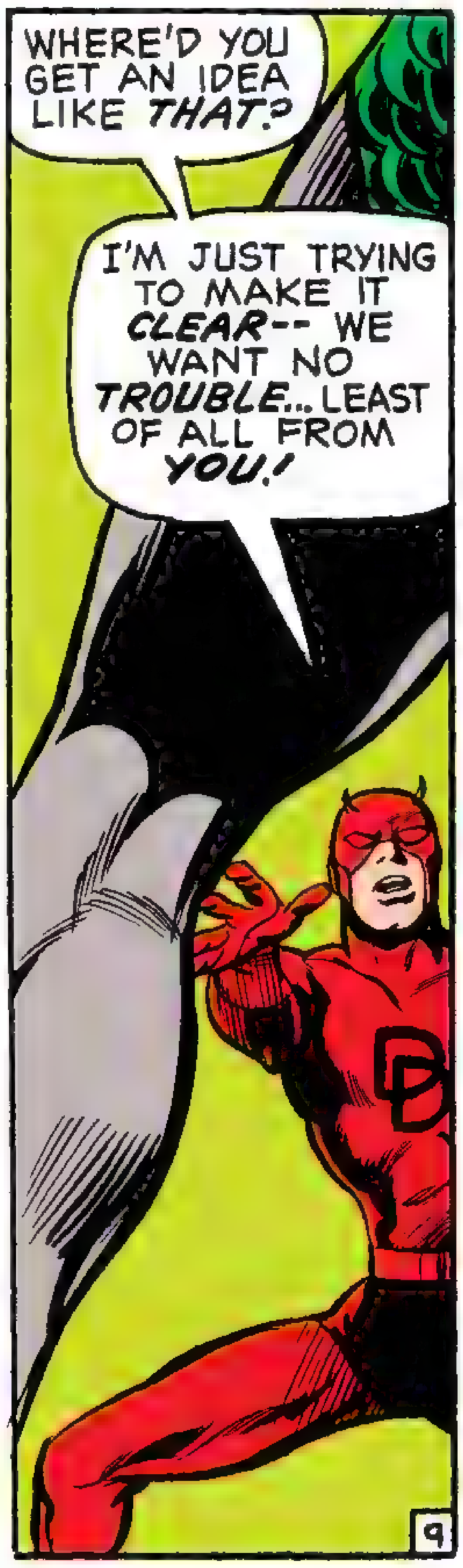

AND, *ELSEWHERE* IN THE MOIST GREEN DARKNESS OF MANHATTAN...
HOLD 'EM *BACK,* SMITTY!
DON'T WANT NO CITIZEN'S DELICATE *FINGERS* BURNED!
SARGE-- SARGE, WHAT DO YOU FIGURE IT *IS?*
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT *ENOUGH* PROBLEMS *ALREADY!*

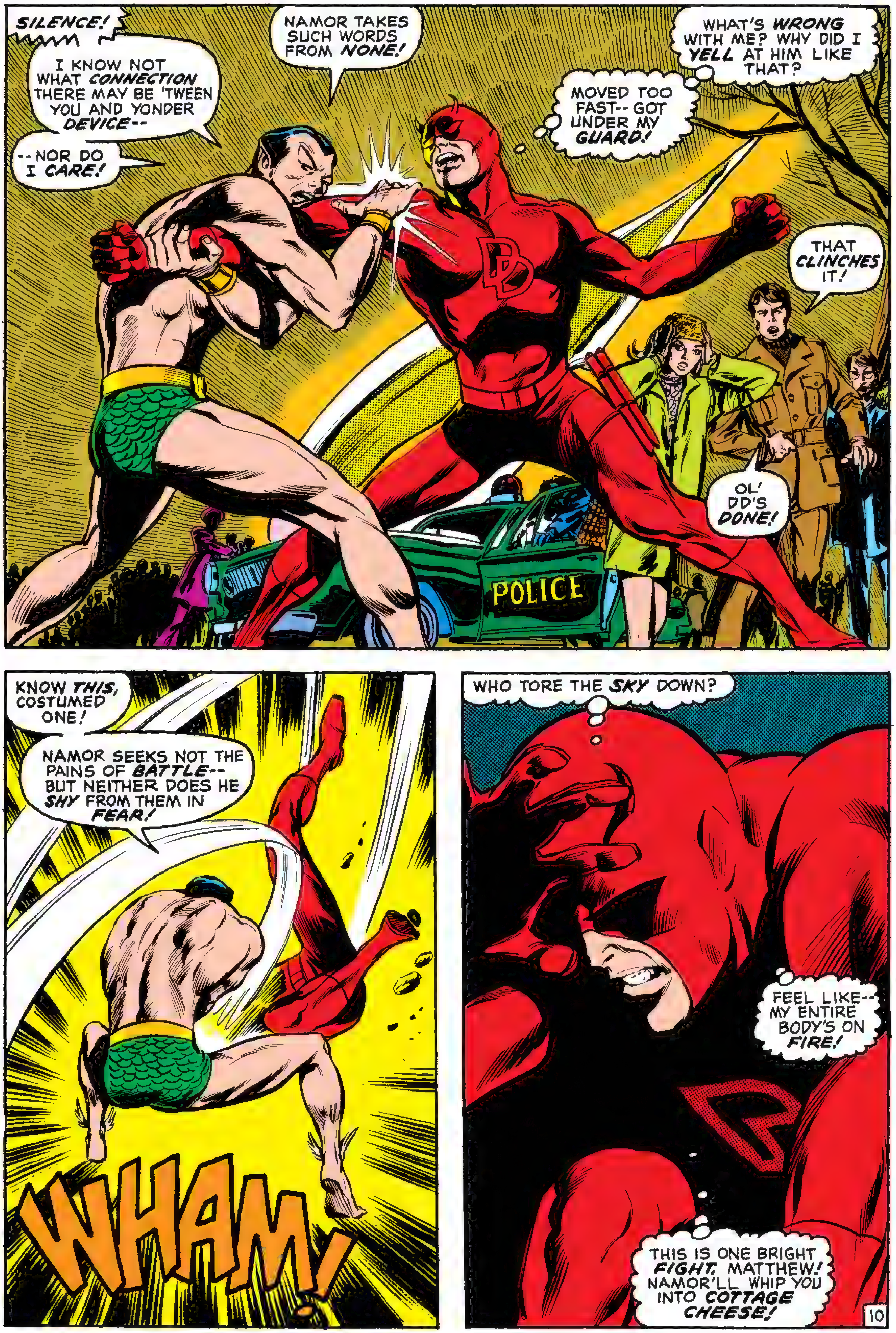

WHATEVER IT IS, THE COMMISSIONER AIN'T GONNA LIKE IT!
THAT I CAN TELL YOU!
I WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH THE ONE CALLED NAMOR!
CRIPES! THE BLASTED THING TALKS!
SEND HIM TO ME. SINGLE OUT AMONG YOU HE WHO IS CALLED NAMOR--
IT-IT JUST APPEARED THERE!
HENRY--WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
--HE WHO IS NAMED ...THE SUB-MARINER!
SO--IT IS THIS WHICH DREW ME HERE.
I TELL YOU, HONEY--
I'D SWORN NEVER TO SKULK AGAIN, TO WALK PROUDLY AMONG THE LAND-CRAWLERS.
YET SOME FORCE PULLED ME HENCE, AND I SAW THE WISDOM OF CONCEALING MYSELF. NOW...
NAMOR HIDES NO MORE!
--IT'S A GIMMICK FOR SOME MOVIE, SEE, AND--HUNH?
HOLY COW!

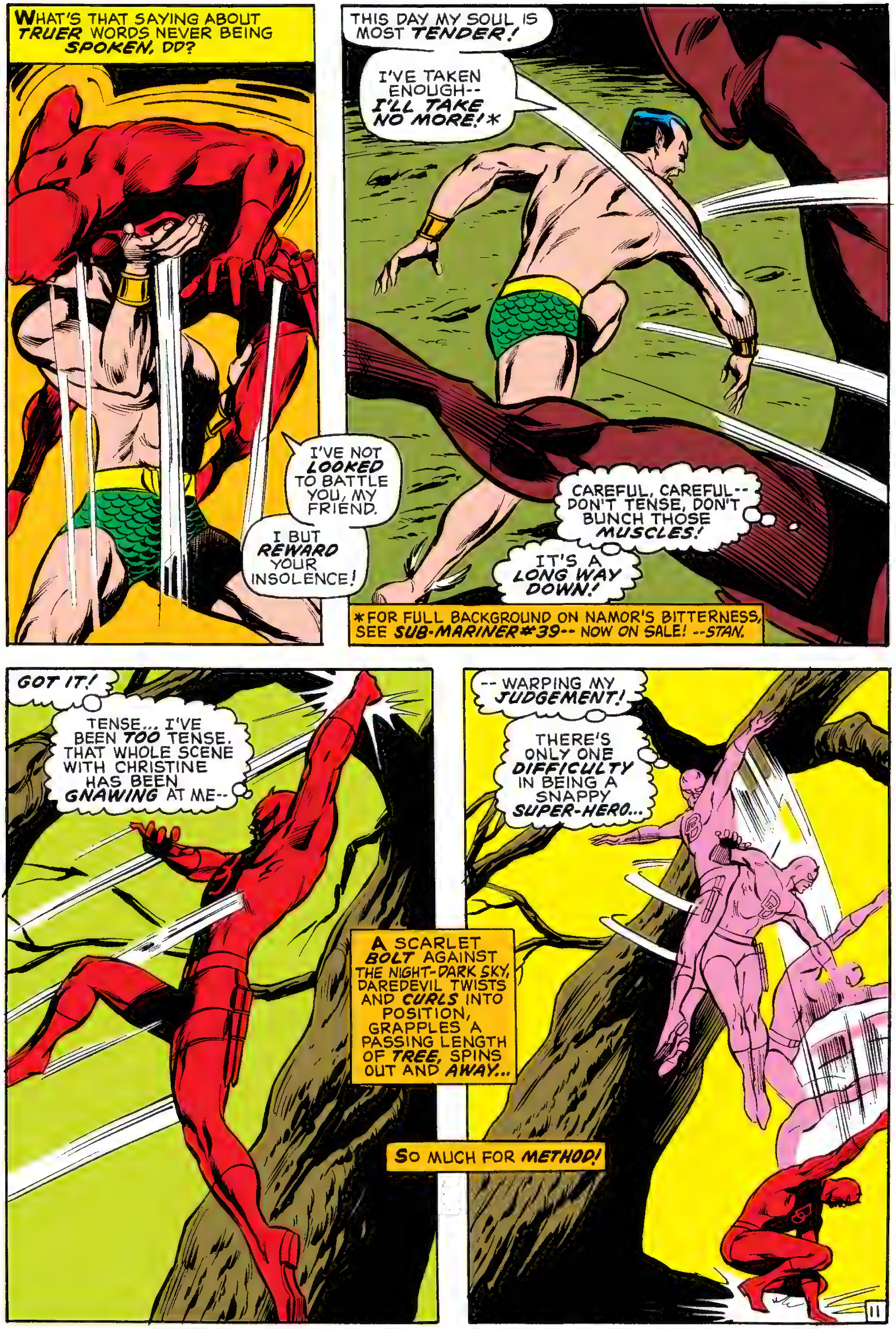

THOUGH NAMOR IS PRINCE NO *LONGER*--
--STILL, HIS IS THE *BLOOD ROYAL!*
SHOW YOURSELF, HIDDEN ONE...

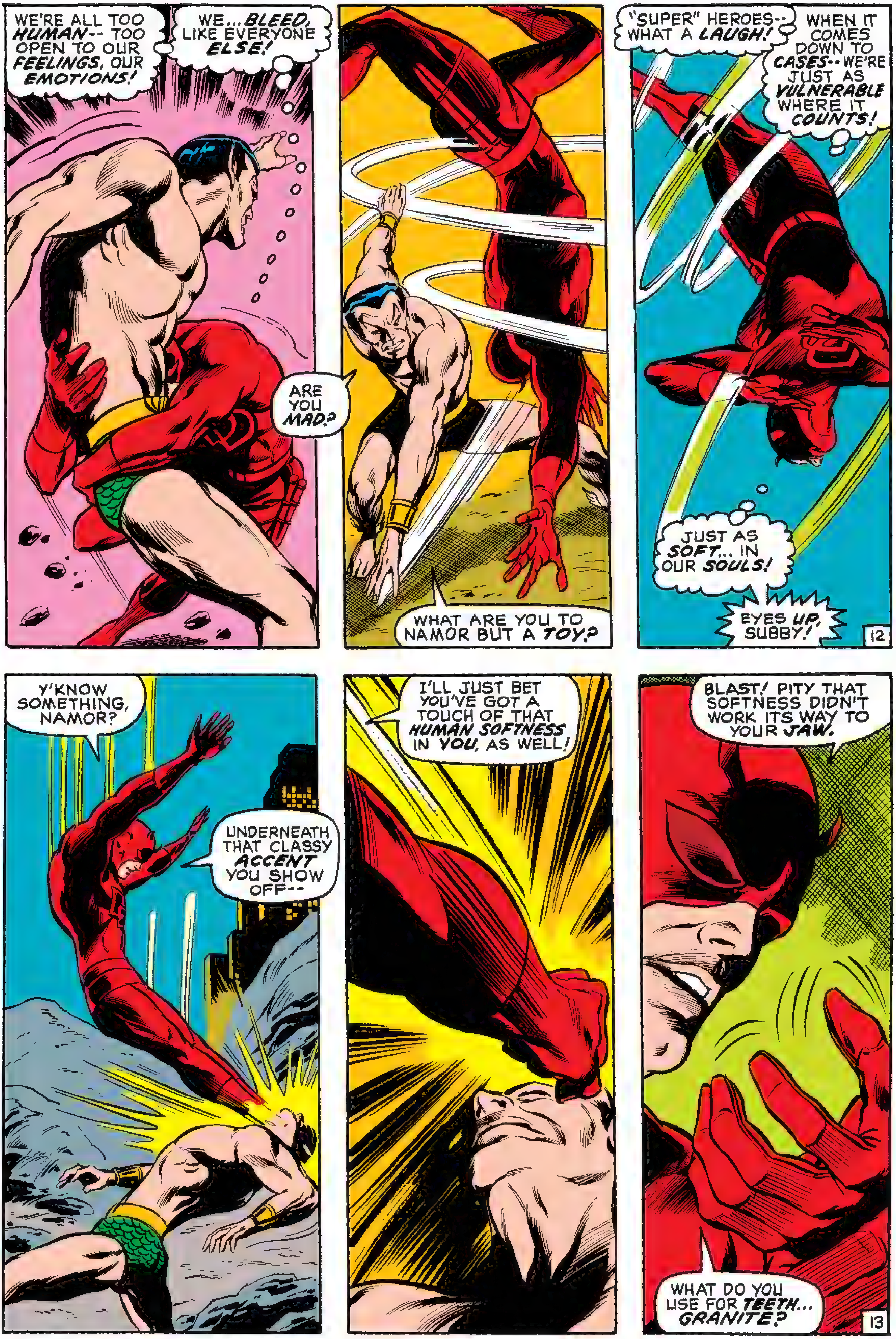

...UNLESS YOUR NAME BE *COWARD*, OR YOUR FACE *UNFIT* FOR ALL TO SEE!
SPEAK! OR ARE YOU STRICKEN SUDDENLY *DUMB* AS WELL?
ANSWER-- WHO DARES ORDER *NAMOR?*

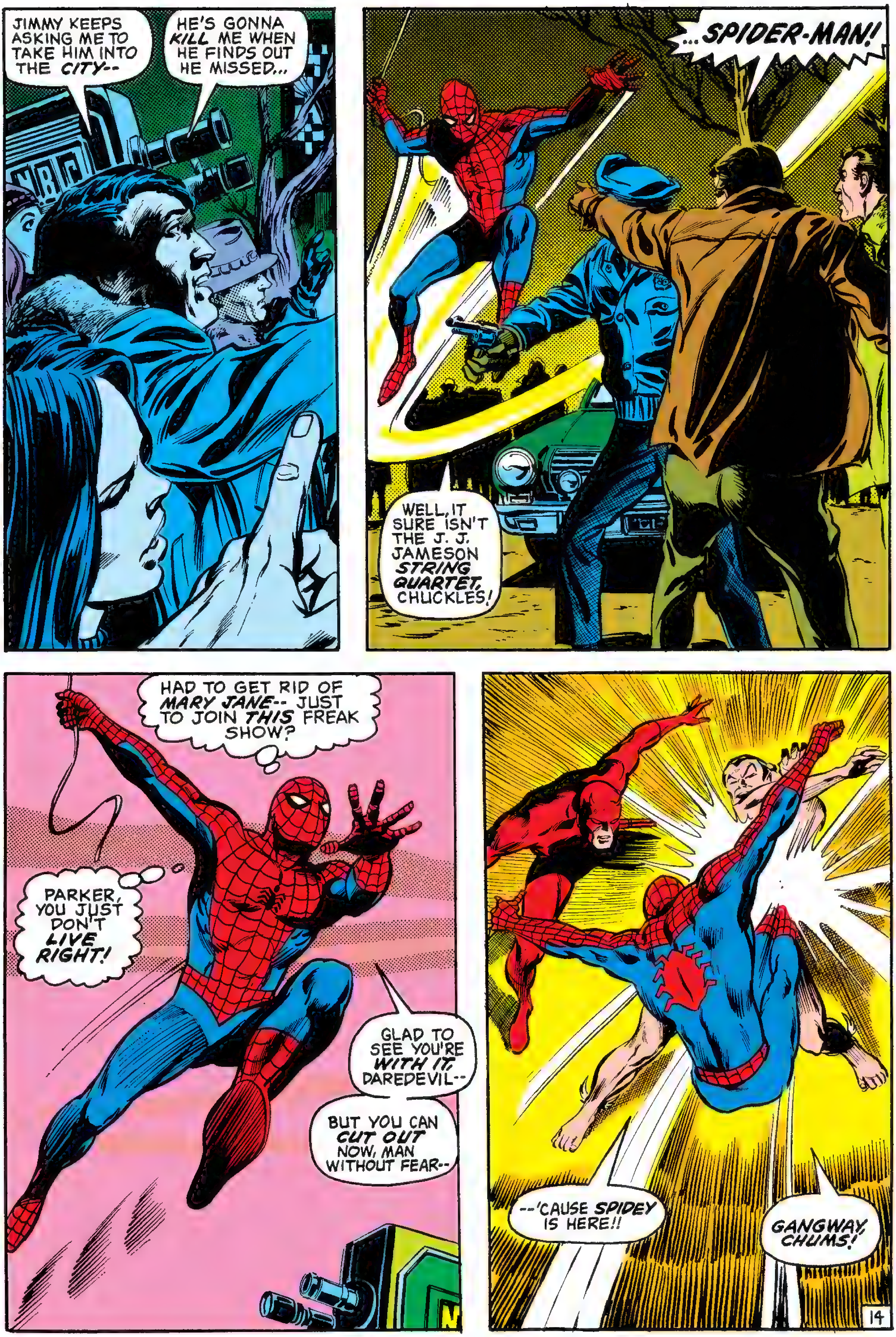

NAMOR! SO *YOU'RE* THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR *GAME* IS, FISH-MAN--
--BUT IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO PICK UP YOUR *MARBLES* AND HEAD *HOMEWARD*, ANGEL!
HORNED FOOL! DO YOU *MOCK* ME?

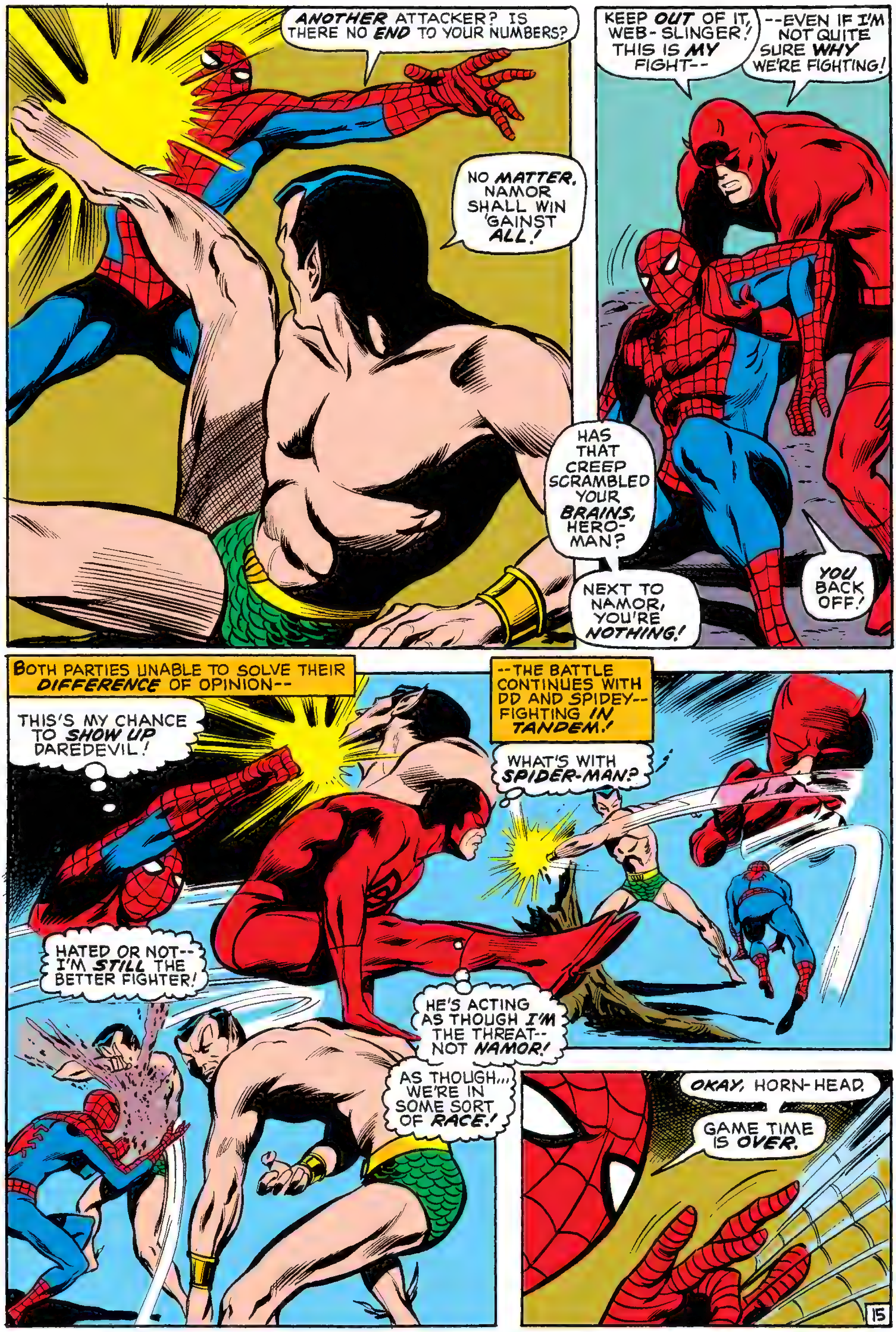

WHERE'D YOU GET AN IDEA LIKE *THAT?*
I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE IT *CLEAR*-- WE WANT NO *TROUBLE*... LEAST OF ALL FROM *YOU!*

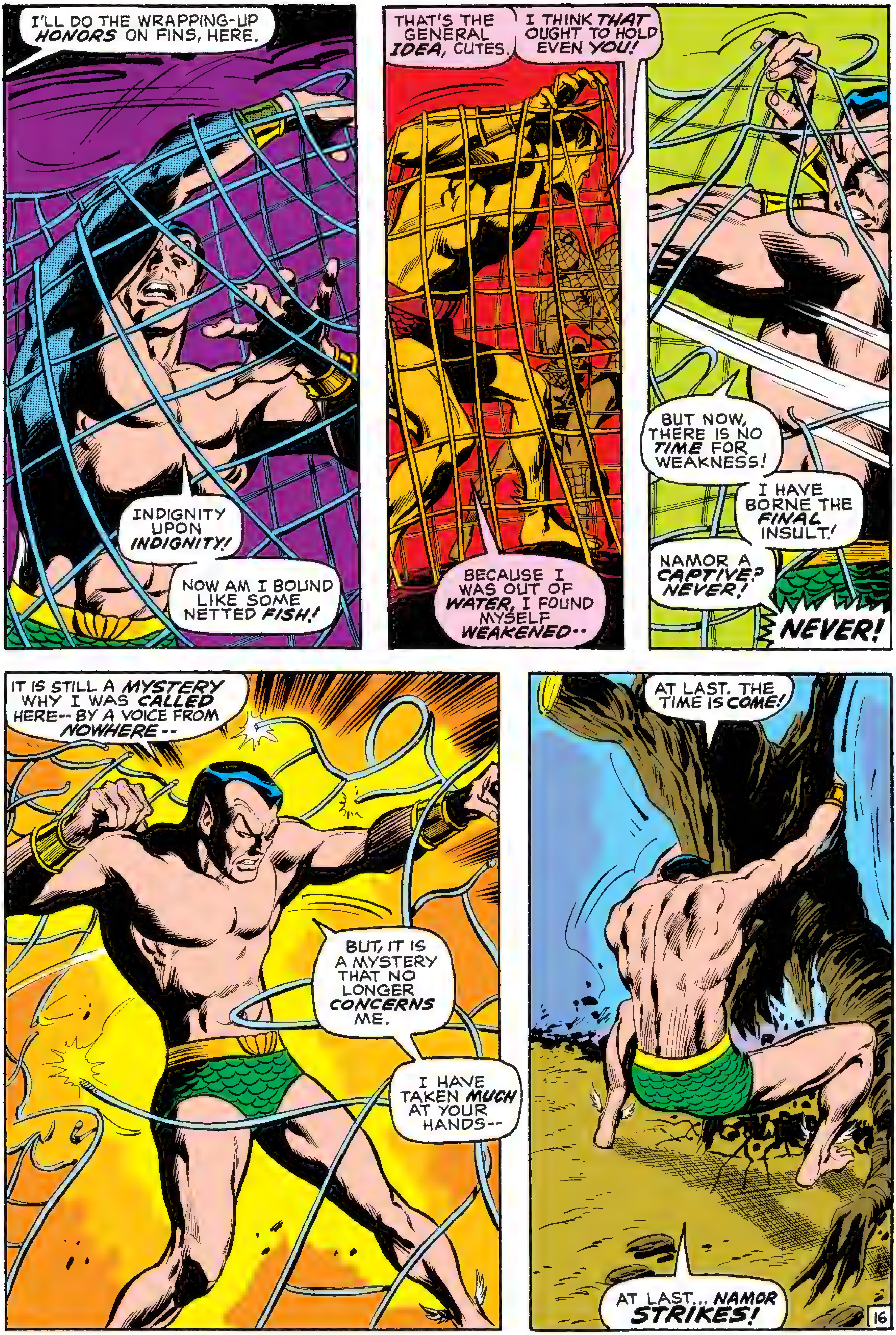

SILENCE!
I KNOW NOT WHAT *CONNECTION* THERE MAY BE 'TWEEN YOU AND YONDER *DEVICE*--
--NOR DO I *CARE!*
NAMOR TAKES SUCH WORDS FROM *NONE!*
WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH ME? WHY DID I *YELL* AT HIM LIKE THAT?
MOVED TOO FAST-- GOT UNDER MY *GUARD!*
THAT *CLINCHES* IT!
OL' DD'S *DONE!*
POLICE
KNOW *THIS,* COSTUMED ONE!
NAMOR SEEKS NOT THE PAINS OF *BATTLE*-- BUT NEITHER DOES HE *SHY* FROM THEM IN *FEAR!*
WHAM!
WHO TORE THE *SKY* DOWN?
FEEL LIKE-- MY ENTIRE BODY'S ON *FIRE!*
THIS IS ONE BRIGHT *FIGHT,* MATTHEW! NAMOR'LL WHIP YOU INTO *COTTAGE CHEESE!*

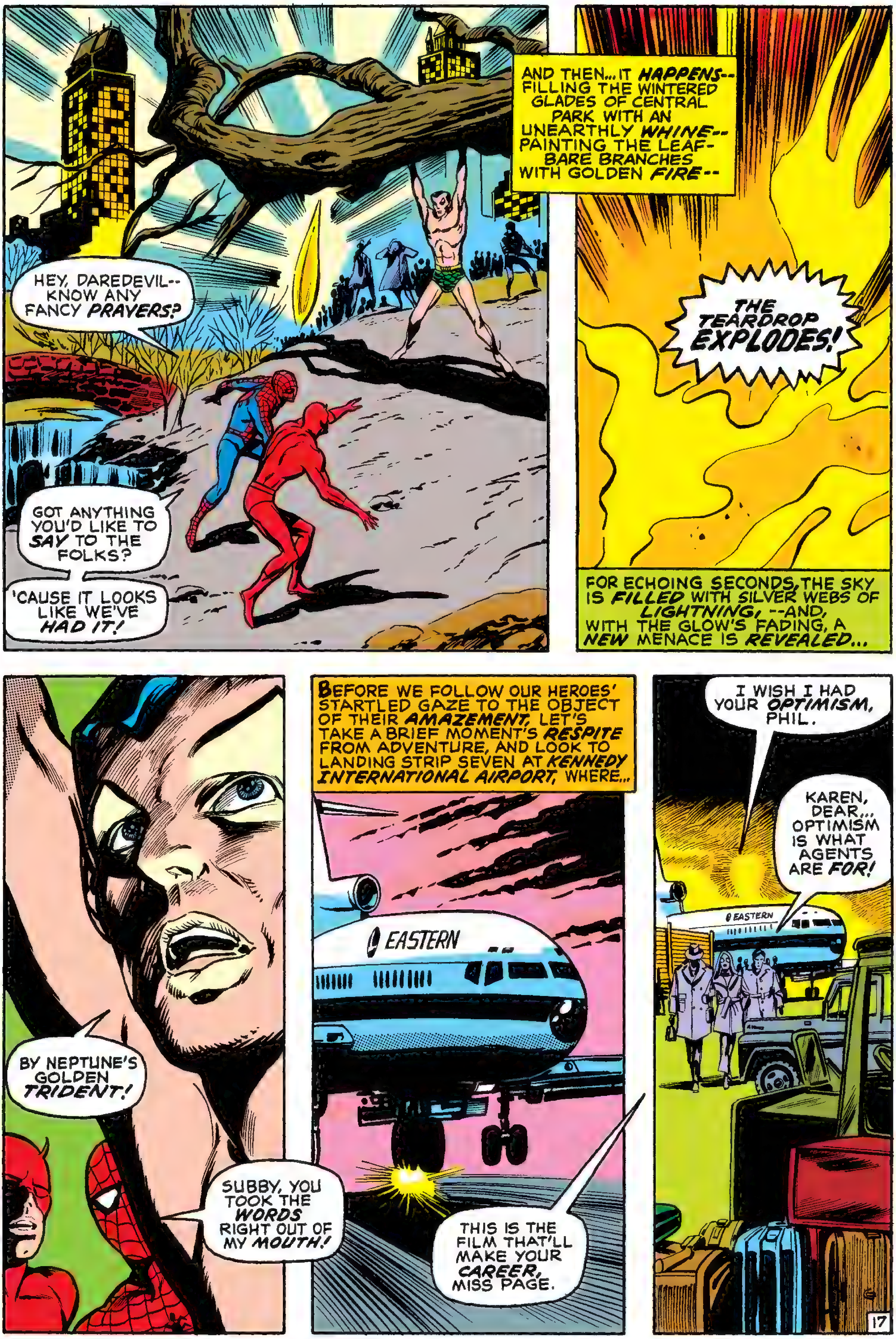

WHAT'S THAT SAYING ABOUT *TRUER* WORDS NEVER BEING *SPOKEN*, DD?
I'VE NOT *LOOKED* TO BATTLE YOU, MY FRIEND.
I BUT *REWARD* YOUR INSOLENCE!
THIS DAY MY SOUL IS MOST *TENDER!*
I'VE TAKEN ENOUGH-- *I'LL TAKE NO MORE!* *
CAREFUL, CAREFUL-- DON'T TENSE, DON'T BUNCH THOSE *MUSCLES!*
IT'S A *LONG WAY DOWN!*
* FOR FULL BACKGROUND ON NAMOR'S BITTERNESS, SEE *SUB-MARINER* #39-- NOW ON SALE! --*STAN.*
GOT IT!
TENSE... I'VE BEEN *TOO* TENSE. THAT WHOLE SCENE WITH CHRISTINE HAS BEEN *GNAWING* AT ME--
A SCARLET *BOLT* AGAINST THE NIGHT-DARK SKY, DAREDEVIL TWISTS AND *CURLS* INTO POSITION, GRAPPLES A PASSING LENGTH OF *TREE*, SPINS OUT AND *AWAY*...
-- WARPING MY *JUDGEMENT!*
THERE'S ONLY ONE *DIFFICULTY* IN BEING A SNAPPY *SUPER-HERO...*
SO MUCH FOR *METHOD!*

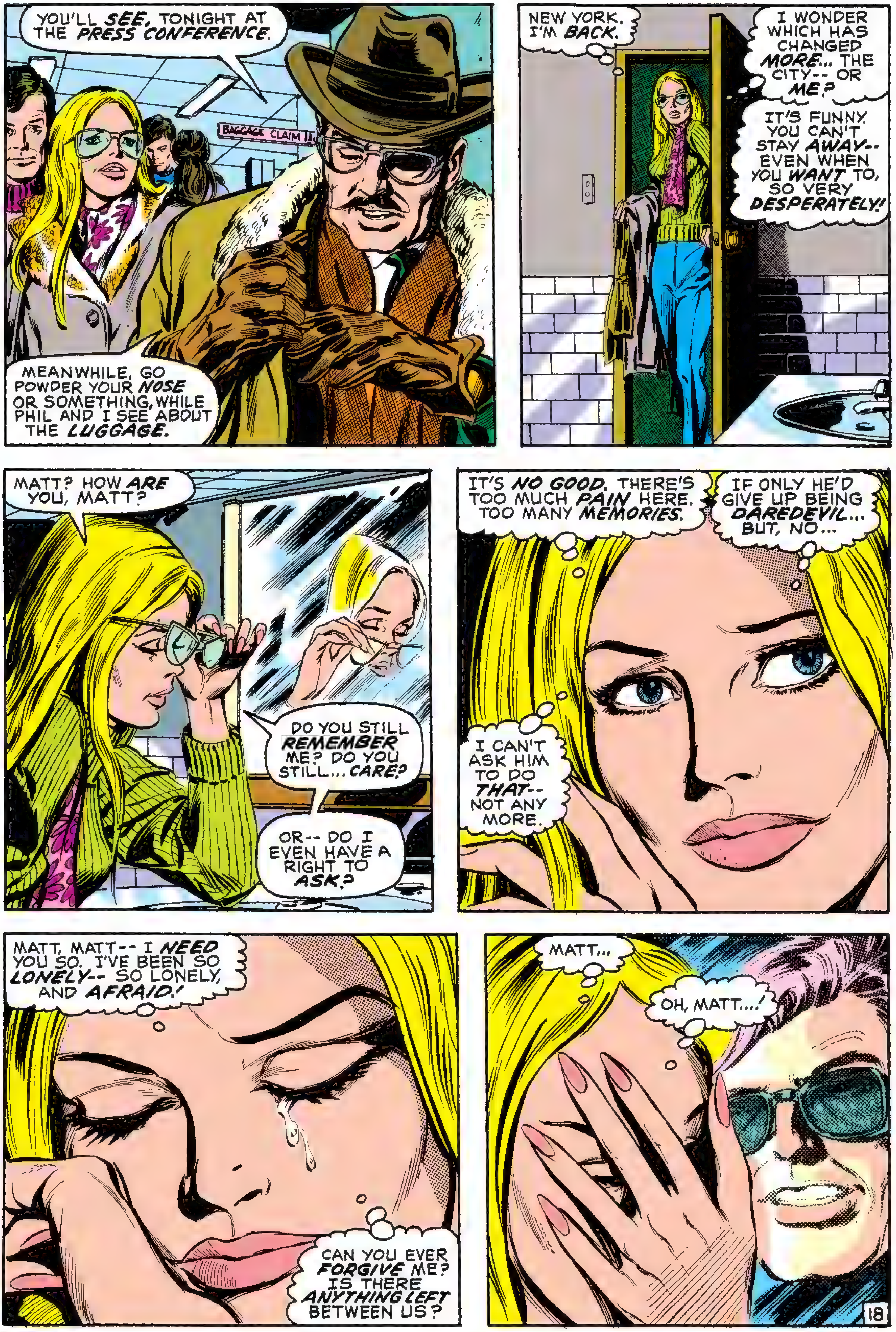

WE'RE ALL TOO *HUMAN*-- TOO OPEN TO OUR *FEELINGS*, OUR *EMOTIONS!*
WE... *BLEED*, LIKE EVERYONE *ELSE!*
ARE YOU *MAD?*
WHAT ARE YOU TO NAMOR BUT A *TOY?*
"SUPER" HEROES-- WHAT A *LAUGH!*
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO *CASES*--WE'RE JUST AS *VULNERABLE* WHERE IT *COUNTS!*
JUST AS *SOFT*... IN OUR *SOULS!*
EYES *UP*, SUBBY!
12
Y'KNOW SOMETHING, NAMOR?
UNDERNEATH THAT CLASSY *ACCENT* YOU SHOW OFF--
I'LL JUST BET YOU'VE GOT A TOUCH OF THAT *HUMAN SOFTNESS* IN *YOU*, AS WELL!
BLAST! PITY THAT SOFTNESS DIDN'T WORK ITS WAY TO YOUR *JAW*.
WHAT DO YOU USE FOR *TEETH*... *GRANITE?*
13

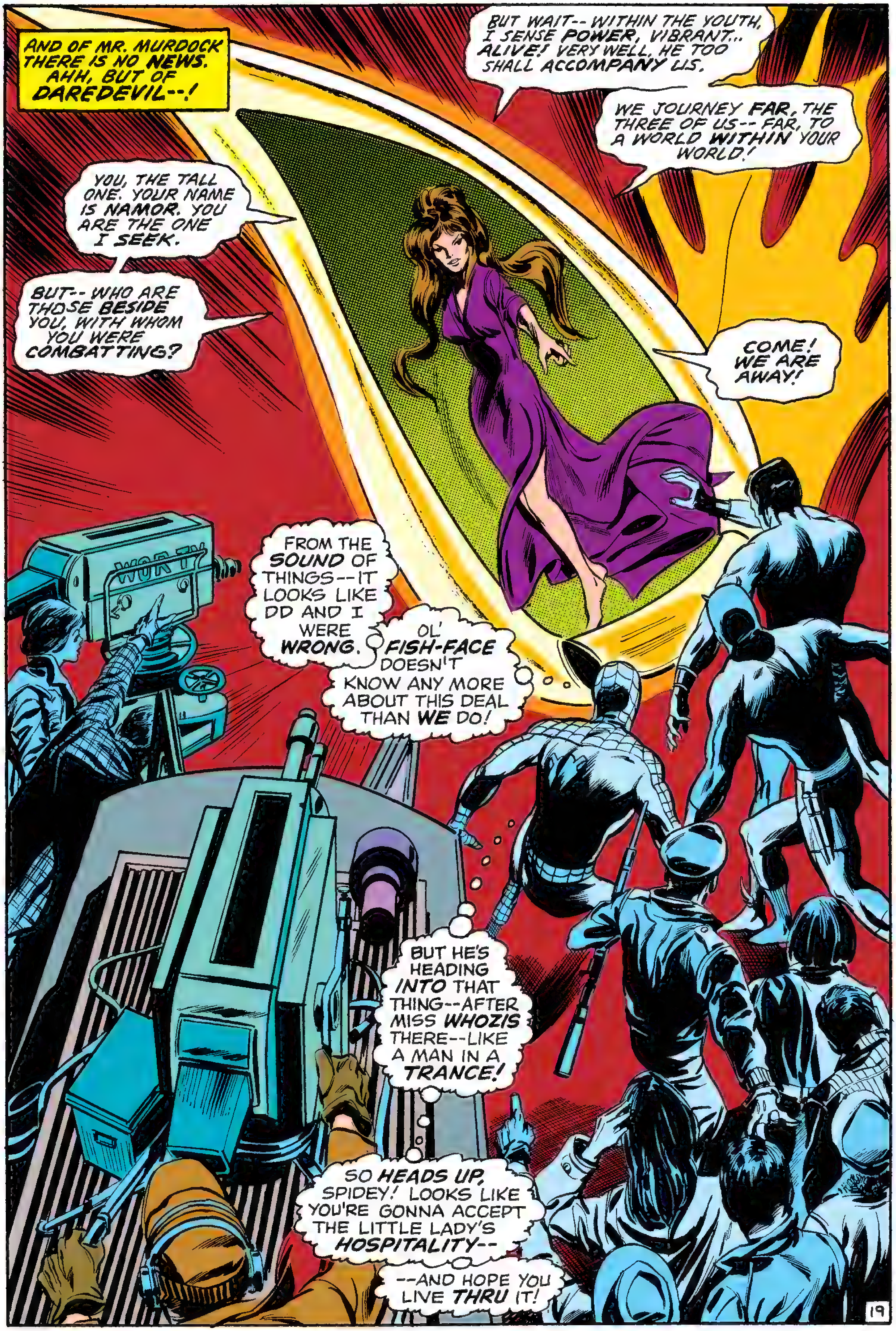

JIMMY KEEPS ASKING ME TO TAKE HIM INTO THE *CITY*--
HE'S GONNA *KILL* ME WHEN HE FINDS OUT HE MISSED...
NBC
...*SPIDER-MAN!*
WELL, IT SURE ISN'T THE J. J. JAMESON *STRING QUARTET*, CHUCKLES!
HAD TO GET RID OF *MARY JANE*-- JUST TO JOIN *THIS* FREAK SHOW?
PARKER, YOU JUST DON'T *LIVE RIGHT!*
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE *WITH IT*, DAREDEVIL--
BUT YOU CAN *CUT OUT* NOW, MAN WITHOUT FEAR--
--'CAUSE *SPIDEY* IS HERE!!
GANGWAY, CHUMS!

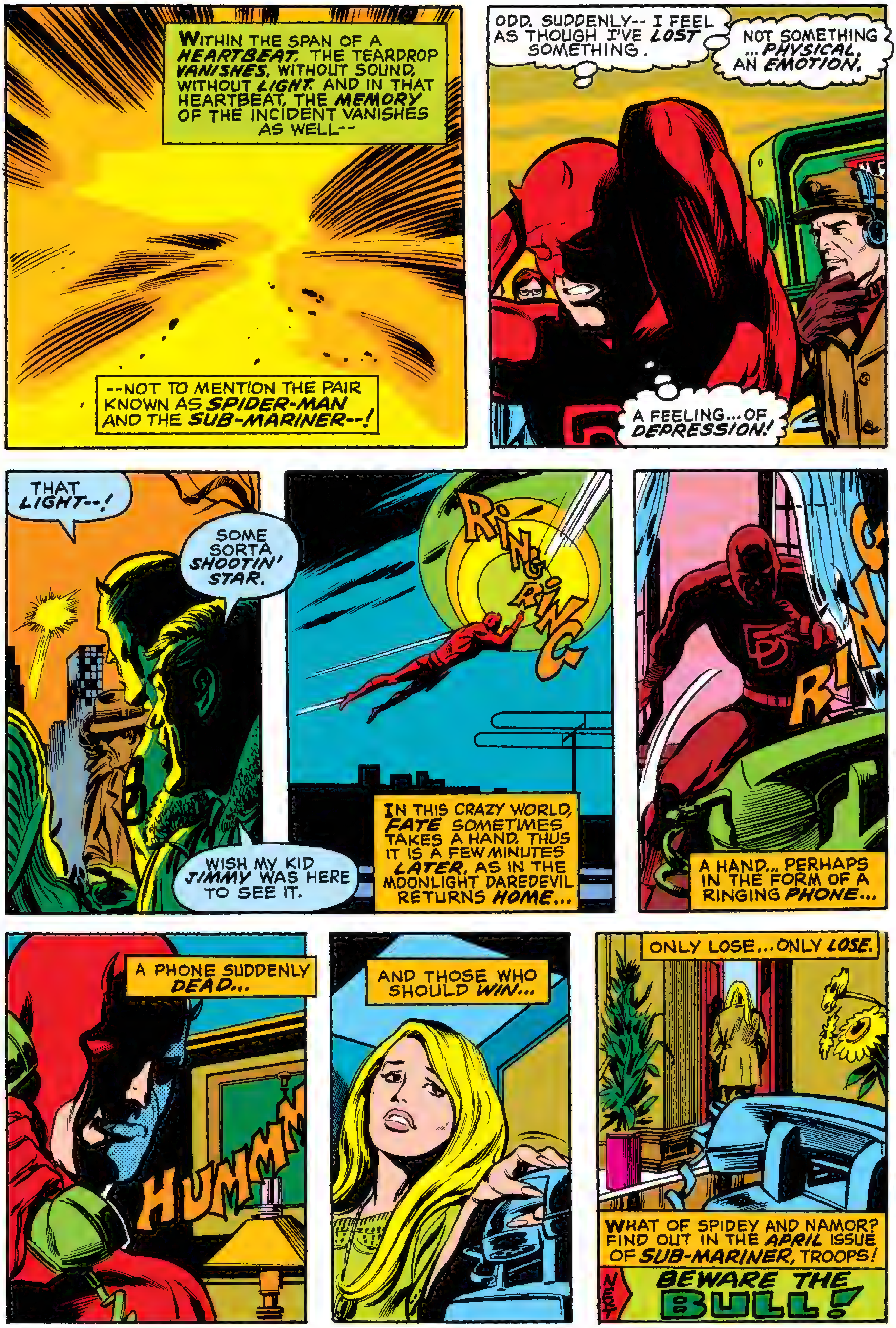

ANOTHER ATTACKER? IS THERE NO END TO YOUR NUMBERS?
NO MATTER. NAMOR SHALL WIN 'GAINST ALL!
KEEP OUT OF IT, WEB-SLINGER! THIS IS MY FIGHT--
--EVEN IF I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHY WE'RE FIGHTING!
HAS THAT CREEP SCRAMBLED YOUR BRAINS, HERO-MAN?
NEXT TO NAMOR, YOU'RE NOTHING!
YOU BACK OFF!
BOTH PARTIES UNABLE TO SOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCE OF OPINION--
THIS'S MY CHANCE TO SHOW UP DAREDEVIL!
HATED OR NOT-- I'M STILL THE BETTER FIGHTER!
HE'S ACTING AS THOUGH I'M THE THREAT-- NOT NAMOR!
AS THOUGH... WE'RE IN SOME SORT OF RACE!
--THE BATTLE CONTINUES WITH DD AND SPIDEY-- FIGHTING IN TANDEM!
WHAT'S WITH SPIDER-MAN?
OKAY, HORN-HEAD.
GAME TIME IS OVER.


I'LL DO THE WRAPPING-UP *HONORS* ON FINS, HERE.
INDIGNITY UPON *INDIGNITY!*
NOW AM I BOUND LIKE SOME NETTED *FISH!*
THAT'S THE GENERAL *IDEA*, CUTES.
I THINK *THAT* OUGHT TO HOLD EVEN *YOU!*
BECAUSE I WAS OUT OF *WATER*, I FOUND MYSELF *WEAKENED*--
BUT NOW, THERE IS NO *TIME* FOR WEAKNESS!
I HAVE BORNE THE *FINAL* INSULT!
NAMOR A *CAPTIVE? NEVER!*
NEVER!
IT IS STILL A *MYSTERY* WHY I WAS *CALLED* HERE-- BY A VOICE FROM *NOWHERE*--
BUT, IT IS A MYSTERY THAT NO LONGER *CONCERNS* ME.
I HAVE TAKEN *MUCH* AT YOUR HANDS--
AT LAST, THE TIME IS *COME!*
AT LAST... *NAMOR STRIKES!*

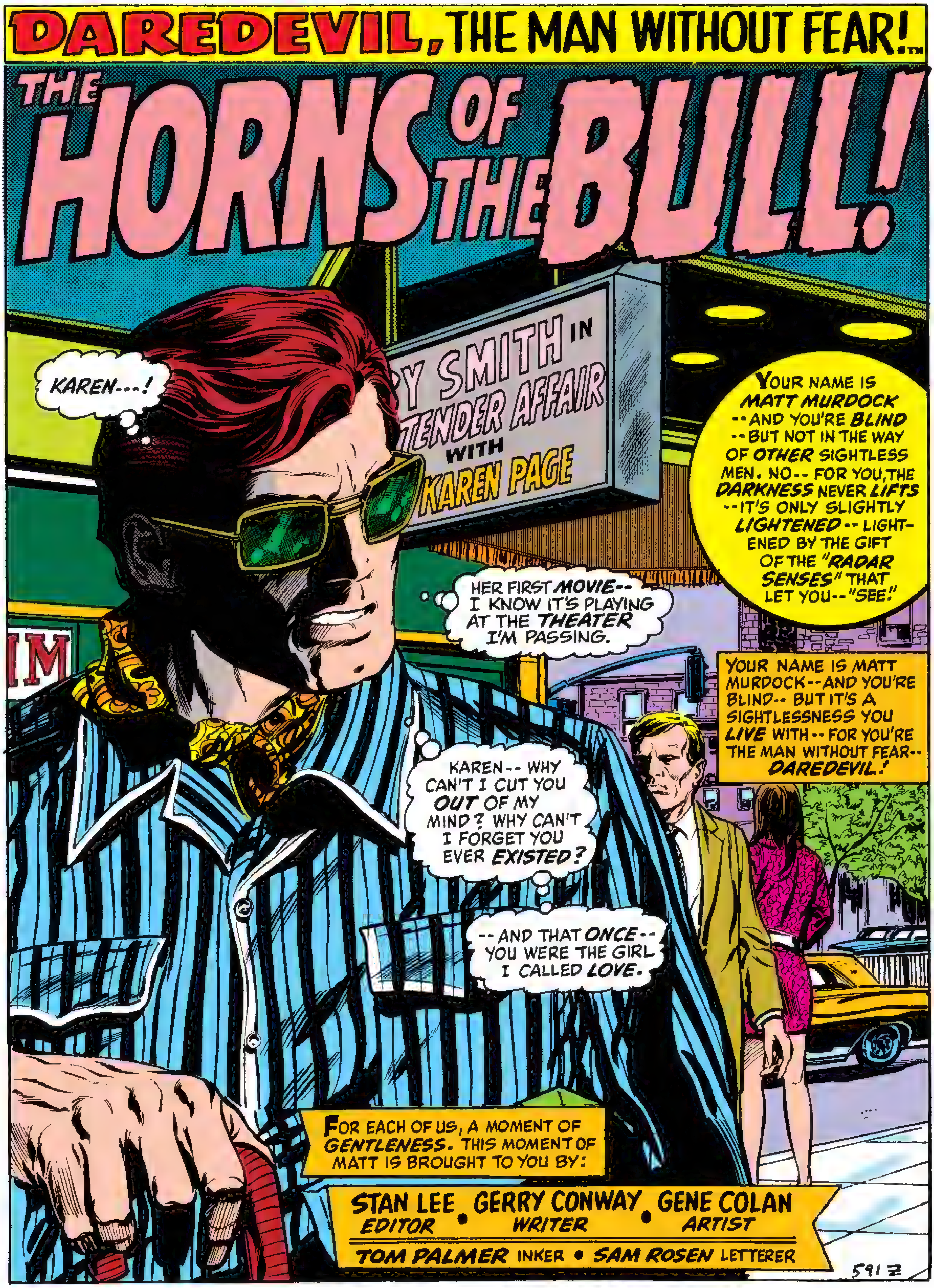

HEY, DAREDEVIL-- KNOW ANY FANCY *PRAYERS?*
GOT ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO *SAY* TO THE FOLKS?
'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE *HAD IT!*
AND THEN... IT *HAPPENS*-- FILLING THE WINTERED GLADES OF CENTRAL PARK WITH AN UNEARTHLY *WHINE*-- PAINTING THE LEAF-BARE BRANCHES WITH GOLDEN *FIRE*--
THE TEARDROP EXPLODES!
FOR ECHOING SECONDS, THE SKY IS *FILLED* WITH SILVER WEBS OF *LIGHTNING*, --AND, WITH THE GLOW'S FADING, A *NEW* MENACE IS *REVEALED*...
BY NEPTUNE'S GOLDEN *TRIDENT!*
SUBBY, YOU TOOK THE *WORDS* RIGHT OUT OF MY *MOUTH!*
BEFORE WE FOLLOW OUR HEROES' STARTLED GAZE TO THE OBJECT OF THEIR *AMAZEMENT*, LET'S TAKE A BRIEF MOMENT'S *RESPITE* FROM ADVENTURE, AND LOOK TO LANDING STRIP SEVEN AT *KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT*, WHERE...
EASTERN
THIS IS THE FILM THAT'LL MAKE YOUR *CAREER*, MISS PAGE.
I WISH I HAD YOUR *OPTIMISM*, PHIL.
KAREN, DEAR... OPTIMISM IS WHAT AGENTS ARE *FOR!*
EASTERN

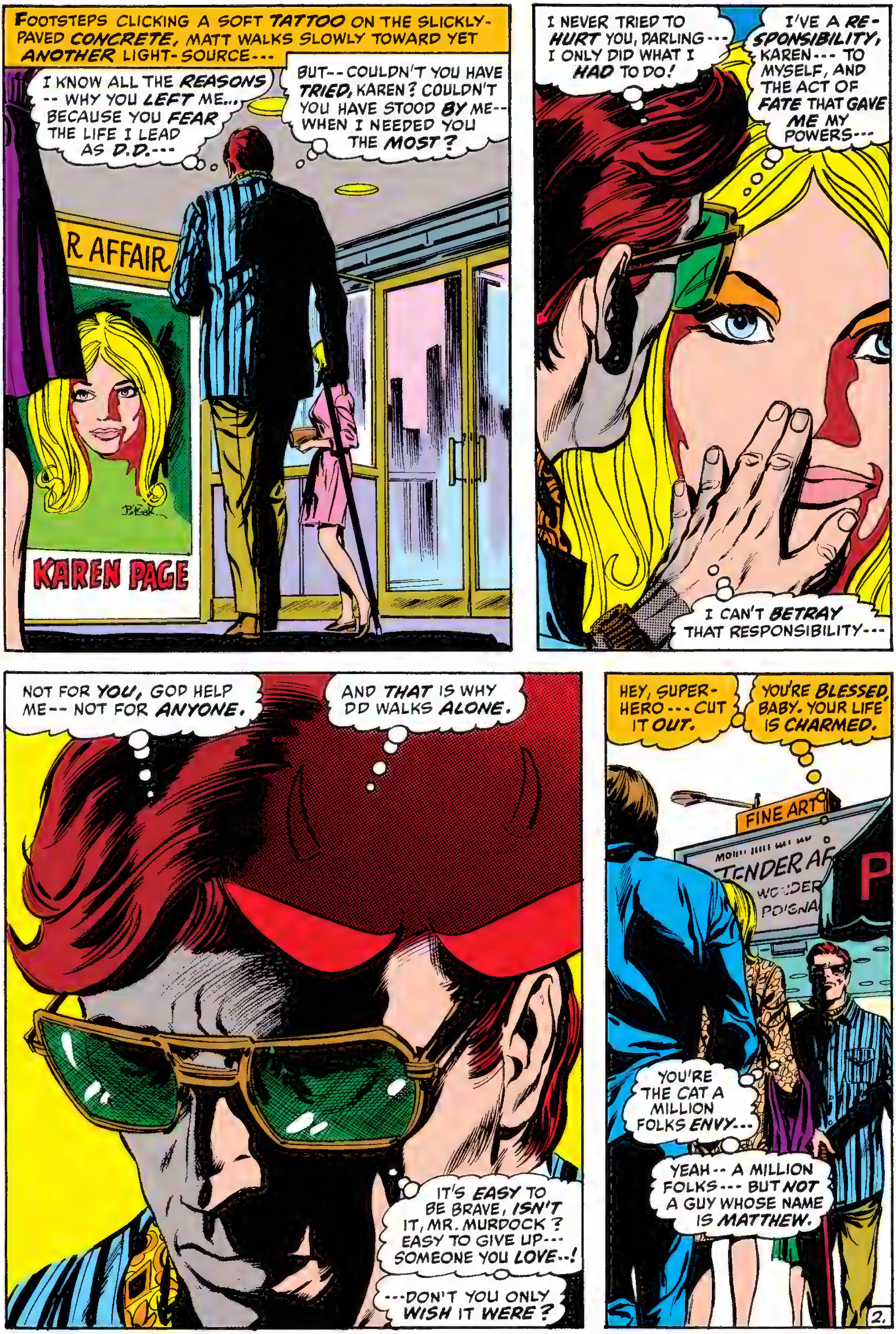

YOU'LL SEE, TONIGHT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.
BAGGAGE CLAIM
MEANWHILE, GO POWDER YOUR NOSE OR SOMETHING, WHILE PHIL AND I SEE ABOUT THE LUGGAGE.
NEW YORK. I'M BACK.
I WONDER WHICH HAS CHANGED MORE.. THE CITY-- OR ME?
IT'S FUNNY. YOU CAN'T STAY AWAY-- EVEN WHEN YOU WANT TO, SO VERY DESPERATELY!
MATT? HOW ARE YOU, MATT?
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER ME? DO YOU STILL... CARE?
OR-- DO I EVEN HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK?
IT'S NO GOOD. THERE'S TOO MUCH PAIN HERE. TOO MANY MEMORIES.
IF ONLY HE'D GIVE UP BEING DAREDEVIL... BUT, NO...
I CAN'T ASK HIM TO DO THAT-- NOT ANY MORE.
MATT, MATT-- I NEED YOU SO. I'VE BEEN SO LONELY-- SO LONELY, AND AFRAID!
CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME? IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT BETWEEN US?
MATT...
OH, MATT...!

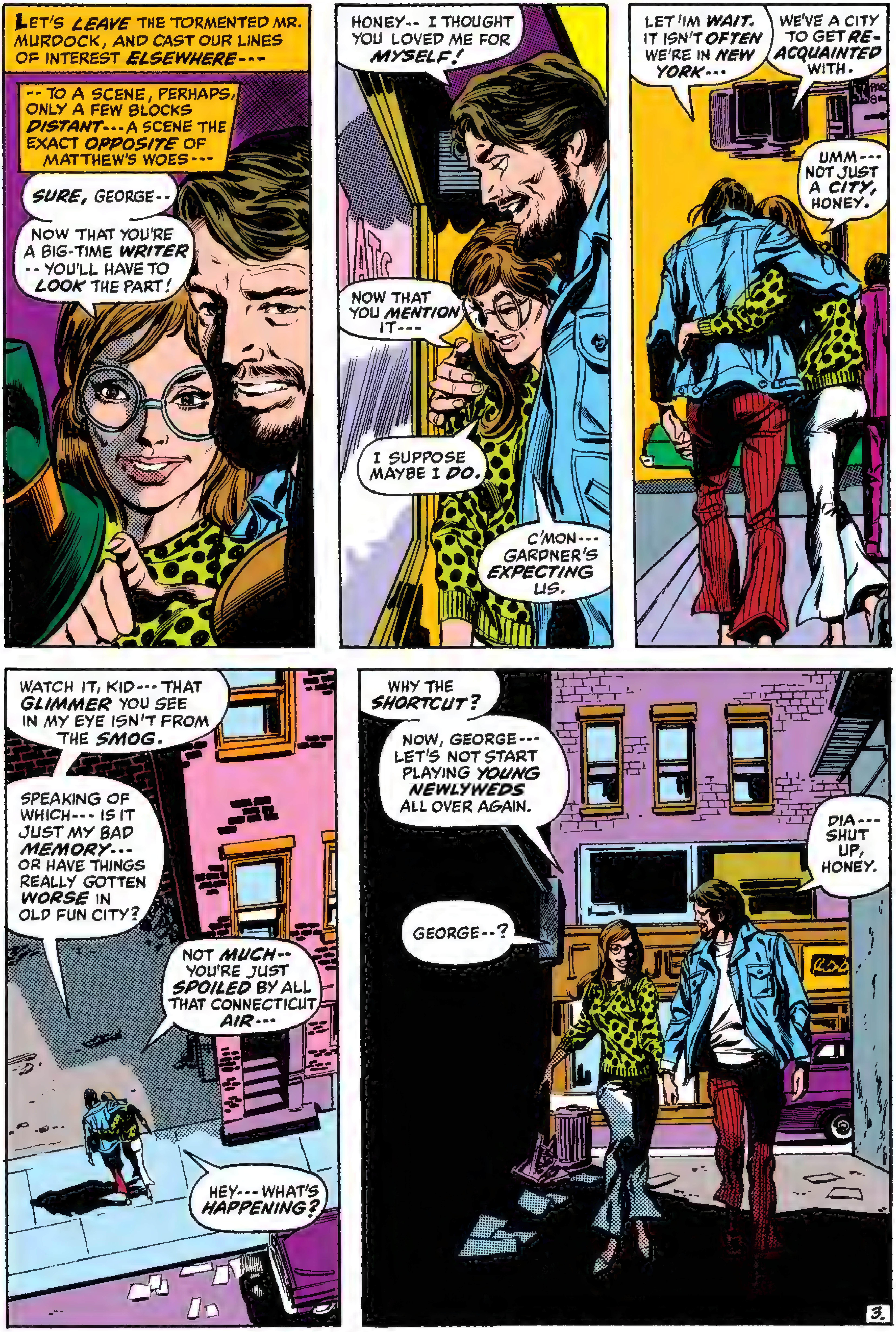

AND OF MR. MURDOCK THERE IS NO NEWS. AHH, BUT OF DAREDEVIL--!
YOU, THE TALL ONE. YOUR NAME IS NAMOR. YOU ARE THE ONE I SEEK.
BUT-- WHO ARE THOSE BESIDE YOU, WITH WHOM YOU WERE COMBATTING?
BUT WAIT-- WITHIN THE YOUTH, I SENSE POWER, VIBRANT.. ALIVE! VERY WELL, HE TOO SHALL ACCOMPANY US.
WE JOURNEY FAR, THE THREE OF US-- FAR, TO A WORLD WITHIN YOUR WORLD!
COME! WE ARE AWAY!
WOR TV
FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS--IT LOOKS LIKE DD AND I WERE WRONG.
OL' FISH-FACE DOESN'T KNOW ANY MORE ABOUT THIS DEAL THAN WE DO!
BUT HE'S HEADING INTO THAT THING--AFTER MISS WHOZIS THERE--LIKE A MAN IN A TRANCE!
SO HEADS UP, SPIDEY! LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA ACCEPT THE LITTLE LADY'S HOSPITALITY--
--AND HOPE YOU LIVE THRU IT!

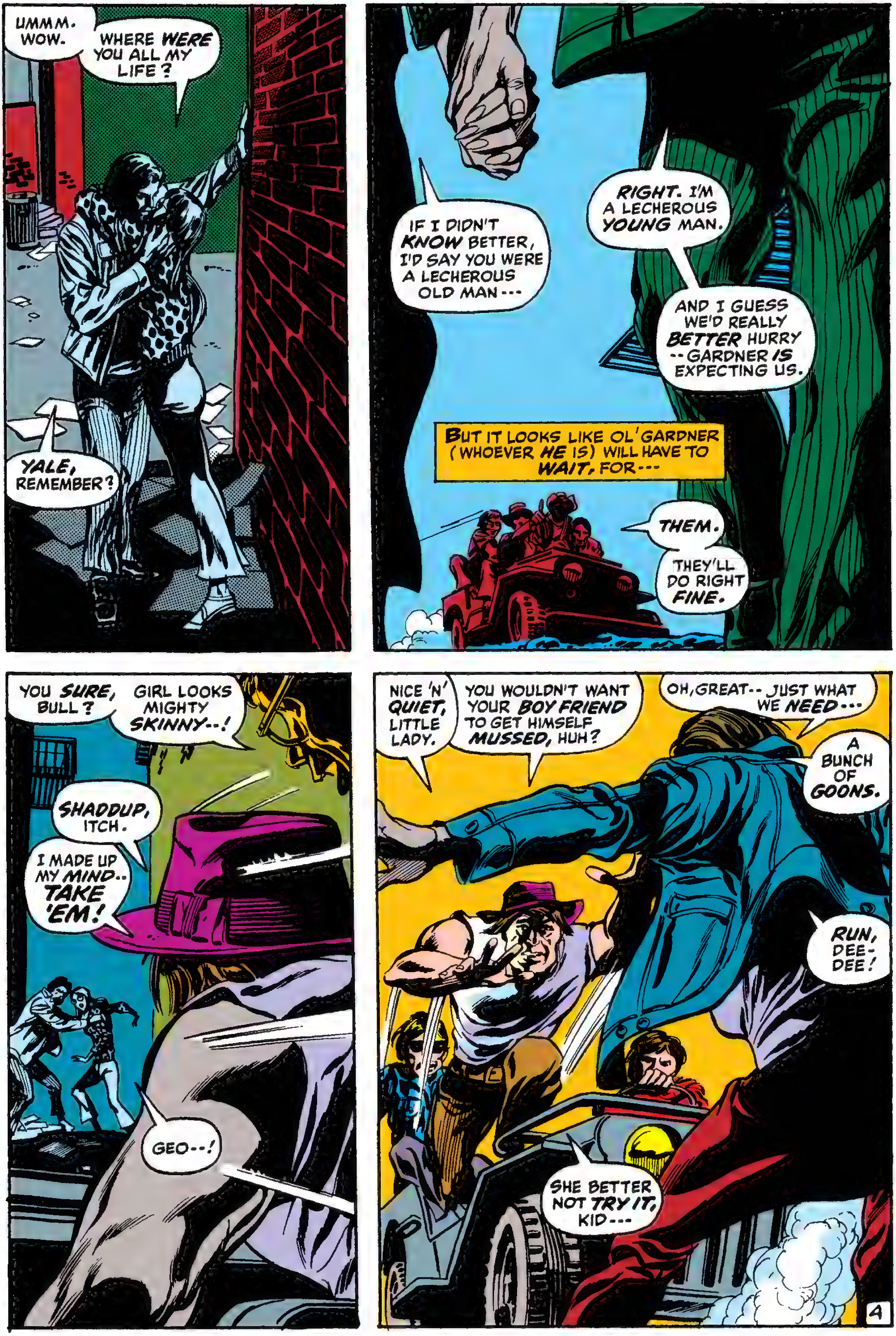

WITHIN THE SPAN OF A HEARTBEAT, THE TEARDROP VANISHES, WITHOUT SOUND, WITHOUT LIGHT. AND IN THAT HEARTBEAT, THE MEMORY OF THE INCIDENT VANISHES AS WELL--
--NOT TO MENTION THE PAIR KNOWN AS SPIDER-MAN AND THE SUB-MARINER--!
ODD. SUDDENLY-- I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE LOST SOMETHING.
NOT SOMETHING ...PHYSICAL. AN EMOTION.
A FEELING...OF DEPRESSION!
THAT LIGHT--!
SOME SORTA SHOOTIN' STAR.
WISH MY KID JIMMY WAS HERE TO SEE IT.
RING RING
IN THIS CRAZY WORLD, FATE SOMETIMES TAKES A HAND. THUS IT IS A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS IN THE MOONLIGHT DAREDEVIL RETURNS HOME...
RING
A HAND... PERHAPS IN THE FORM OF A RINGING PHONE...
A PHONE SUDDENLY DEAD...
HUMMMM
AND THOSE WHO SHOULD WIN...
ONLY LOSE...ONLY LOSE.
WHAT OF SPIDEY AND NAMOR? FIND OUT IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF SUB-MARINER, TROOPS!
NEXT
BEWARE THE BULL!

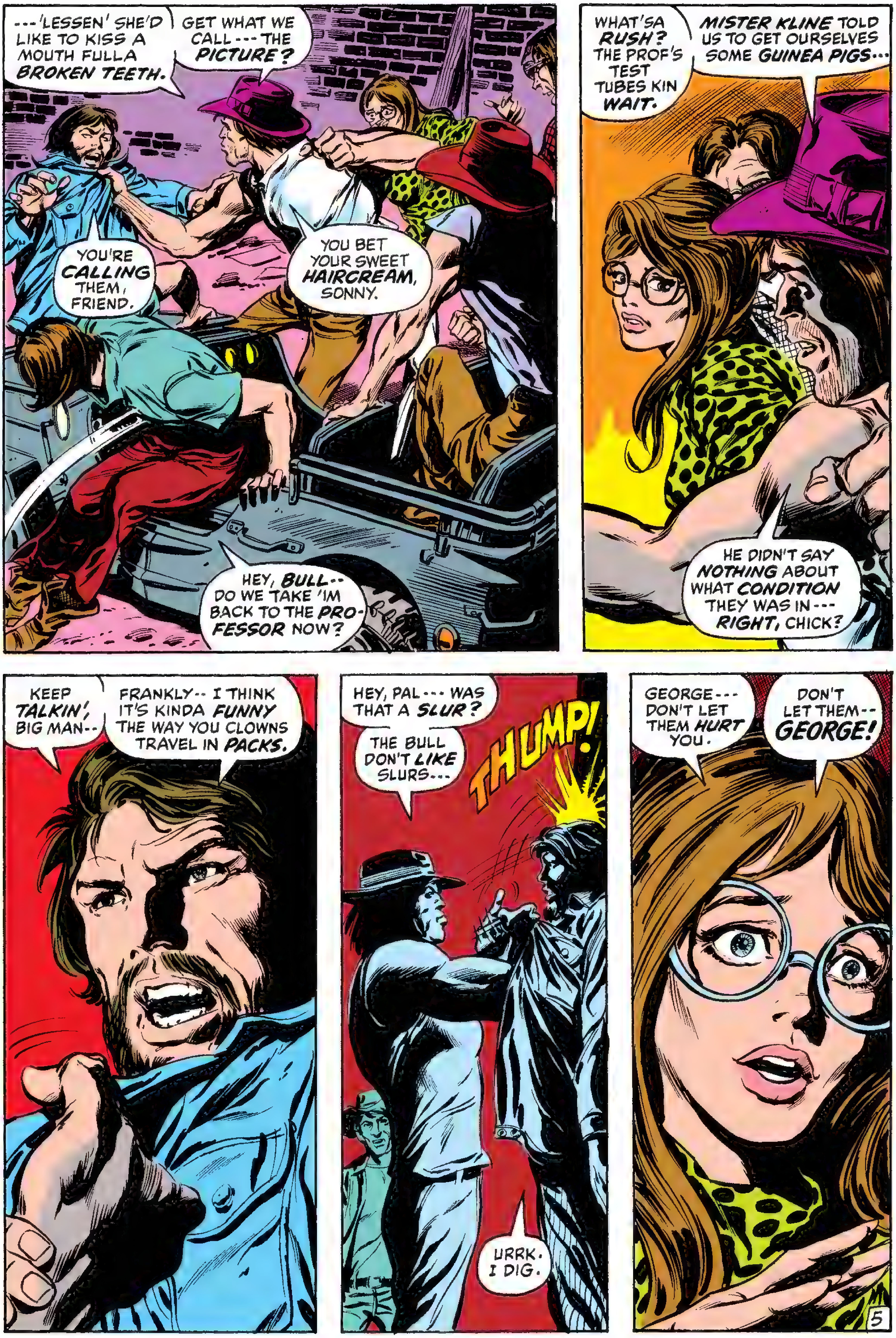
DARE-DEVIL
15¢
78
JULY
02459
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
ON THE HORNS OF THE MAN-BULL!
TALK, YOU TWO-BIT HOOD! TELL ME HOW TO FIND THE GUY YOU CALL MR. KLINE...
--OR YOU'RE GONNA MAKE A NICE BIG SPLAT.. ALL OVER THE SIDEWALK!
WHO IS THE MYSTERIOUS MR. KLINE?

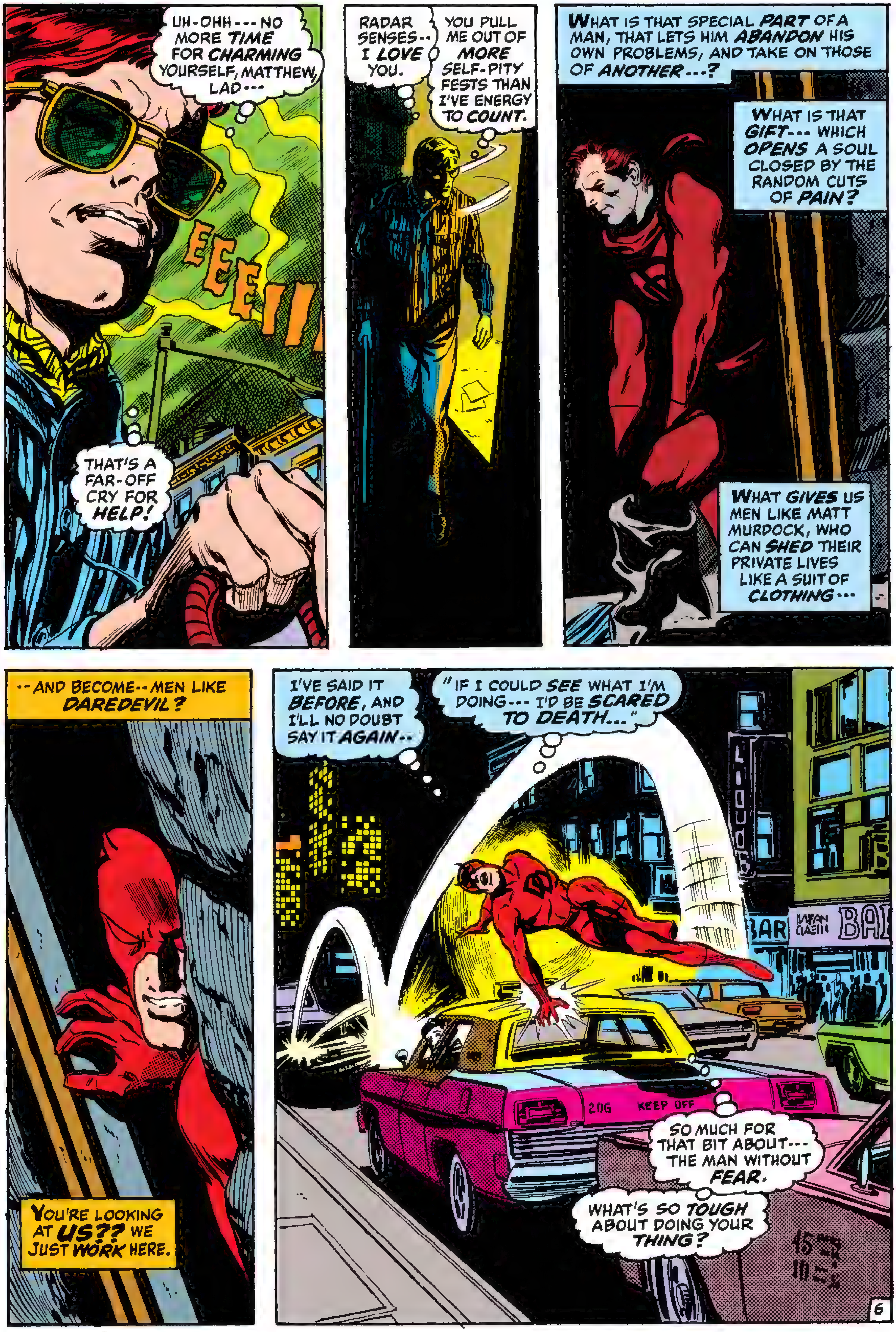

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™
THE HORNS OF THE BULL!
KAREN...!
Y SMITH IN TENDER AFFAIR WITH KAREN PAGE
IM
YOUR NAME IS MATT MURDOCK --AND YOU'RE BLIND --BUT NOT IN THE WAY OF OTHER SIGHTLESS MEN. NO-- FOR YOU, THE DARKNESS NEVER LIFTS --IT'S ONLY SLIGHTLY LIGHTENED-- LIGHTENED BY THE GIFT OF THE "RADAR SENSES" THAT LET YOU--"SEE!"
HER FIRST MOVIE-- I KNOW IT'S PLAYING AT THE THEATER I'M PASSING.
YOUR NAME IS MATT MURDOCK--AND YOU'RE BLIND-- BUT IT'S A SIGHTLESSNESS YOU LIVE WITH--FOR YOU'RE THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR-- DAREDEVIL!
KAREN-- WHY CAN'T I CUT YOU OUT OF MY MIND? WHY CAN'T I FORGET YOU EVER EXISTED?
--AND THAT ONCE-- YOU WERE THE GIRL I CALLED LOVE.
FOR EACH OF US, A MOMENT OF GENTLENESS. THIS MOMENT OF MATT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
STAN LEE EDITOR • GERRY CONWAY WRITER • GENE COLAN ARTIST
TOM PALMER INKER • SAM ROSEN LETTERER
591 Z

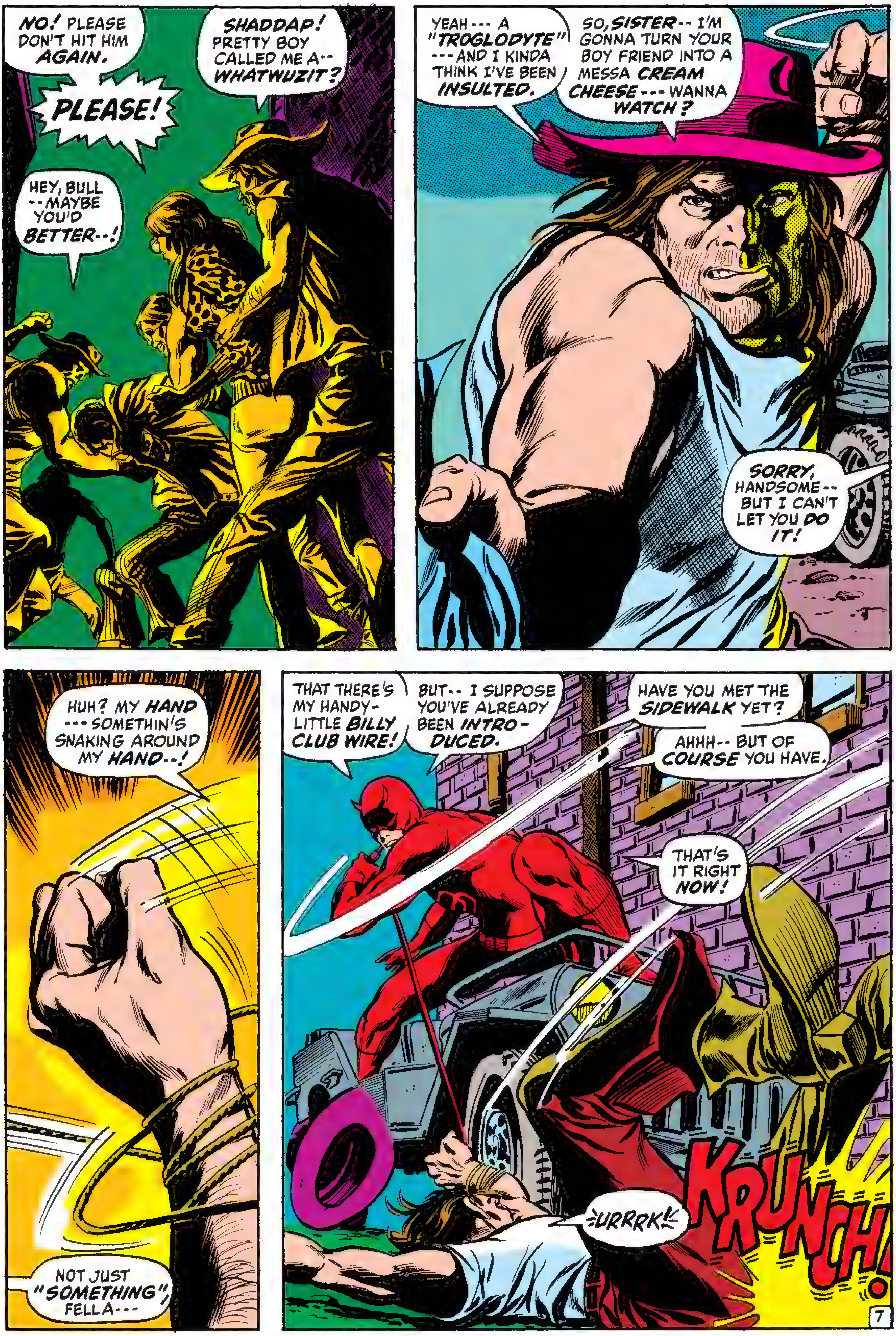

FOOTSTEPS CLICKING A SOFT TATTOO ON THE SLICKLY-PAVED CONCRETE, MATT WALKS SLOWLY TOWARD YET ANOTHER LIGHT-SOURCE---
I KNOW ALL THE REASONS -- WHY YOU LEFT ME... BECAUSE YOU FEAR THE LIFE I LEAD AS D.D.---
BUT-- COULDN'T YOU HAVE TRIED, KAREN? COULDN'T YOU HAVE STOOD BY ME-- WHEN I NEEDED YOU THE MOST?
R AFFAIR
KAREN PAGE
I NEVER TRIED TO HURT YOU, DARLING--- I ONLY DID WHAT I HAD TO DO!
I'VE A RESPONSIBILITY, KAREN--- TO MYSELF, AND THE ACT OF FATE THAT GAVE ME MY POWERS---
I CAN'T BETRAY THAT RESPONSIBILITY---
NOT FOR YOU, GOD HELP ME-- NOT FOR ANYONE.
AND THAT IS WHY DD WALKS ALONE.
IT'S EASY TO BE BRAVE, ISN'T IT, MR. MURDOCK? EASY TO GIVE UP--- SOMEONE YOU LOVE--!
--DON'T YOU ONLY WISH IT WERE?
HEY, SUPER-HERO--- CUT IT OUT.
YOU'RE BLESSED, BABY. YOUR LIFE IS CHARMED.
FINE ARTS
TENDER AF
WONDER
POIGNA
YOU'RE THE CAT A MILLION FOLKS ENVY---
YEAH -- A MILLION FOLKS--- BUT NOT A GUY WHOSE NAME IS MATTHEW.

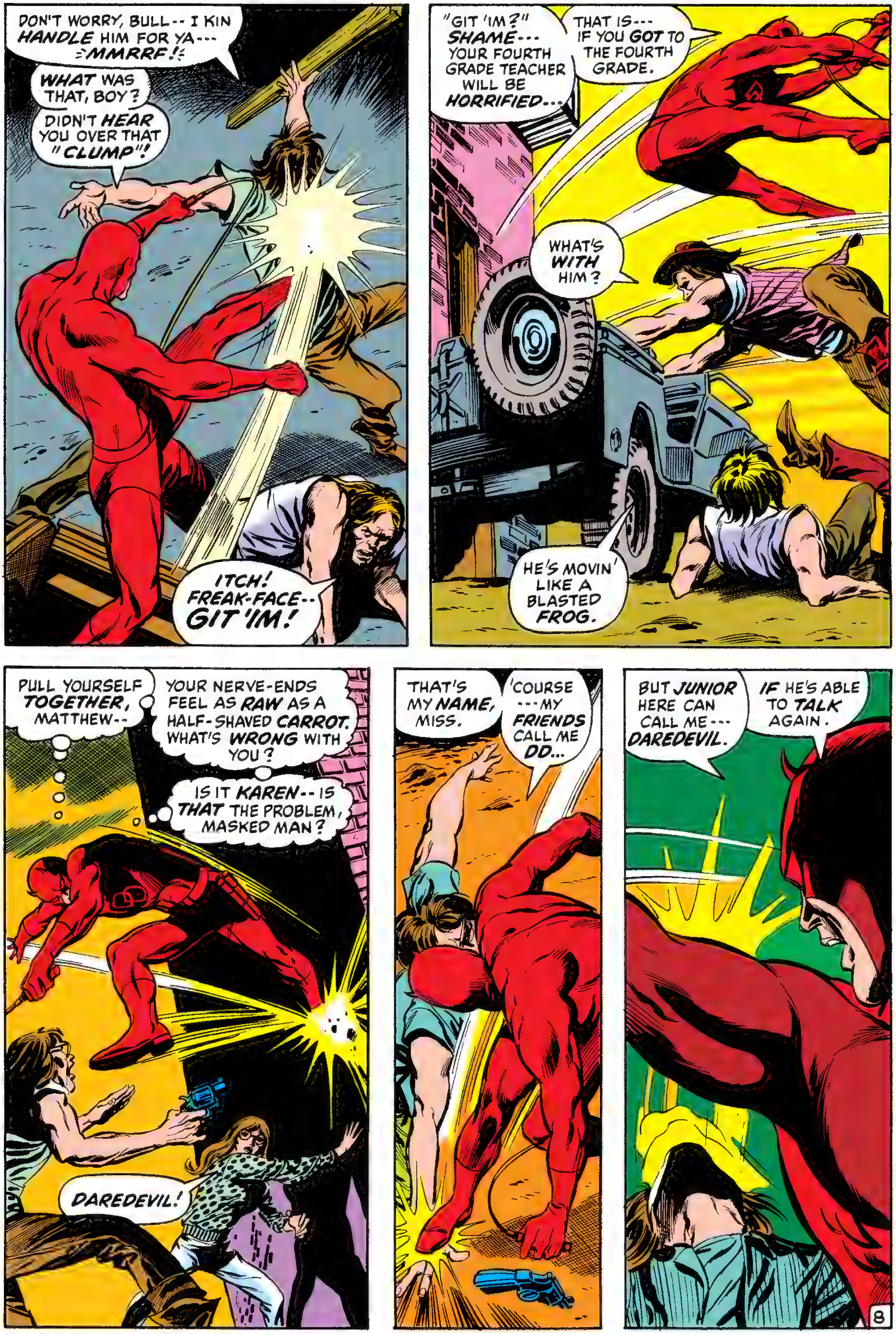

LET'S LEAVE THE TORMENTED MR. MURDOCK, AND CAST OUR LINES OF INTEREST ELSEWHERE---
-- TO A SCENE, PERHAPS, ONLY A FEW BLOCKS DISTANT---A SCENE THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF MATTHEW'S WOES---
SURE, GEORGE--
NOW THAT YOU'RE A BIG-TIME WRITER -- YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK THE PART!
HONEY-- I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME FOR MYSELF!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT---
I SUPPOSE MAYBE I DO.
C'MON--- GARDNER'S EXPECTING US.
LET 'IM WAIT. IT ISN'T OFTEN WE'RE IN NEW YORK---
WE'VE A CITY TO GET RE-ACQUAINTED WITH.
UMM--- NOT JUST A CITY, HONEY.
WATCH IT, KID---THAT GLIMMER YOU SEE IN MY EYE ISN'T FROM THE SMOG.
SPEAKING OF WHICH--- IS IT JUST MY BAD MEMORY--- OR HAVE THINGS REALLY GOTTEN WORSE IN OLD FUN CITY?
NOT MUCH-- YOU'RE JUST SPOILED BY ALL THAT CONNECTICUT AIR---
HEY---WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHY THE SHORTCUT?
NOW, GEORGE--- LET'S NOT START PLAYING YOUNG NEWLYWEDS ALL OVER AGAIN.
DIA--- SHUT UP, HONEY.
GEORGE--?

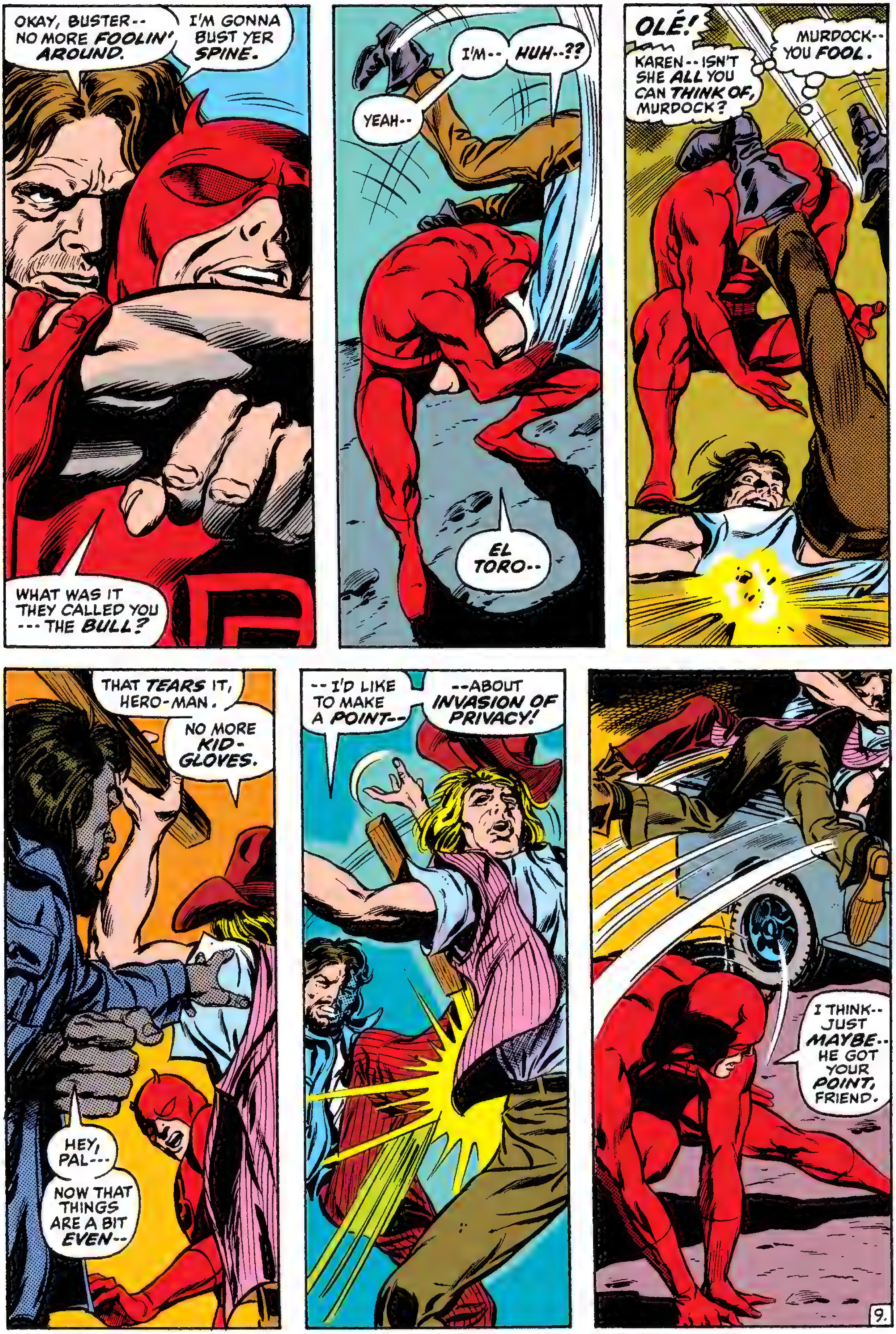

UMMM. WOW.
WHERE *WERE* YOU ALL MY LIFE?
YALE, REMEMBER?
IF I DIDN'T *KNOW* BETTER, I'D SAY YOU WERE A LECHEROUS OLD MAN---
RIGHT. I'M A LECHEROUS *YOUNG* MAN.
AND I GUESS WE'D REALLY *BETTER* HURRY --GARDNER *IS* EXPECTING US.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE OL' GARDNER (WHOEVER *HE* IS) WILL HAVE TO *WAIT,* FOR---
THEM.
THEY'LL DO RIGHT *FINE.*
YOU *SURE,* BULL?
GIRL LOOKS MIGHTY *SKINNY*--!
SHADDUP, ITCH.
I MADE UP MY *MIND*.. *TAKE 'EM!*
GEO--!
NICE 'N' *QUIET,* LITTLE LADY.
YOU WOULDN'T WANT YOUR *BOY FRIEND* TO GET HIMSELF *MUSSED,* HUH?
OH, GREAT-- JUST WHAT WE *NEED*---
A BUNCH OF *GOONS.*
RUN, DEE-DEE!
SHE BETTER NOT *TRY IT,* KID---

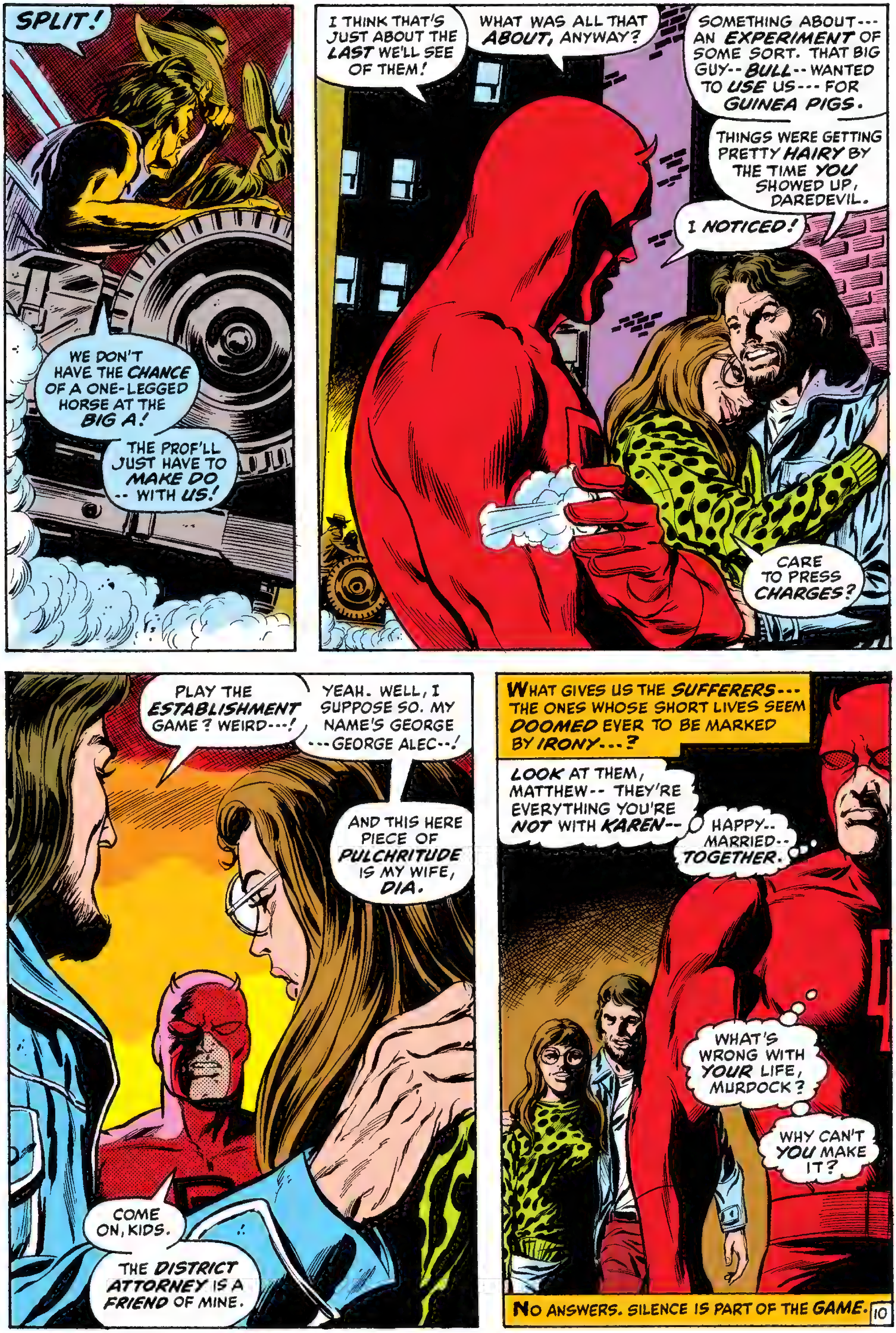

---'LESSEN' SHE'D LIKE TO KISS A MOUTH FULLA BROKEN TEETH.
GET WHAT WE CALL --- THE PICTURE?
YOU'RE CALLING THEM, FRIEND.
YOU BET YOUR SWEET HAIRCREAM, SONNY.
HEY, BULL -- DO WE TAKE 'IM BACK TO THE PROFESSOR NOW?
WHAT'SA RUSH? THE PROF'S TEST TUBES KIN WAIT.
MISTER KLINE TOLD US TO GET OURSELVES SOME GUINEA PIGS...
HE DIDN'T SAY NOTHING ABOUT WHAT CONDITION THEY WAS IN --- RIGHT, CHICK?
KEEP TALKIN', BIG MAN--
FRANKLY -- I THINK IT'S KINDA FUNNY THE WAY YOU CLOWNS TRAVEL IN PACKS.
HEY, PAL --- WAS THAT A SLUR?
THE BULL DON'T LIKE SLURS...
THUMP!
URRK. I DIG.
GEORGE --- DON'T LET THEM HURT YOU.
DON'T LET THEM -- GEORGE!

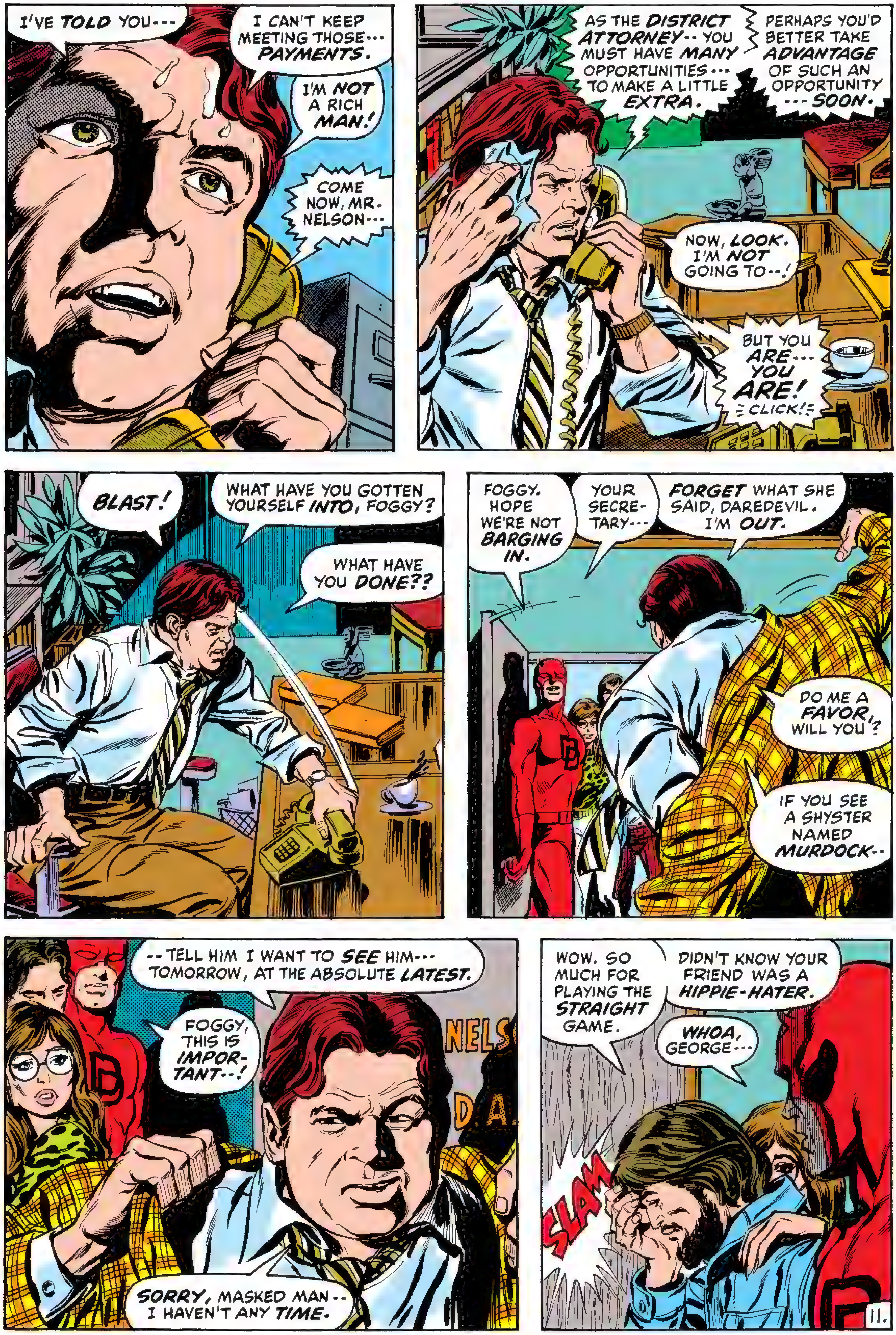

UH-OHH---NO MORE TIME FOR CHARMING YOURSELF, MATTHEW, LAD---
EEEIII
THAT'S A FAR-OFF CRY FOR HELP!
RADAR SENSES-- I LOVE YOU.
YOU PULL ME OUT OF MORE SELF-PITY FESTS THAN I'VE ENERGY TO COUNT.
WHAT IS THAT SPECIAL PART OF A MAN, THAT LETS HIM ABANDON HIS OWN PROBLEMS, AND TAKE ON THOSE OF ANOTHER...?
WHAT IS THAT GIFT--- WHICH OPENS A SOUL CLOSED BY THE RANDOM CUTS OF PAIN?
WHAT GIVES US MEN LIKE MATT MURDOCK, WHO CAN SHED THEIR PRIVATE LIVES LIKE A SUIT OF CLOTHING---
--AND BECOME--MEN LIKE DAREDEVIL?
YOU'RE LOOKING AT US?? WE JUST WORK HERE.
I'VE SAID IT BEFORE, AND I'LL NO DOUBT SAY IT AGAIN--
"IF I COULD SEE WHAT I'M DOING--- I'D BE SCARED TO DEATH..."
LIQUORS
BAR
BAI
KEEP OFF
SO MUCH FOR THAT BIT ABOUT--- THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR.
WHAT'S SO TOUGH ABOUT DOING YOUR THING?

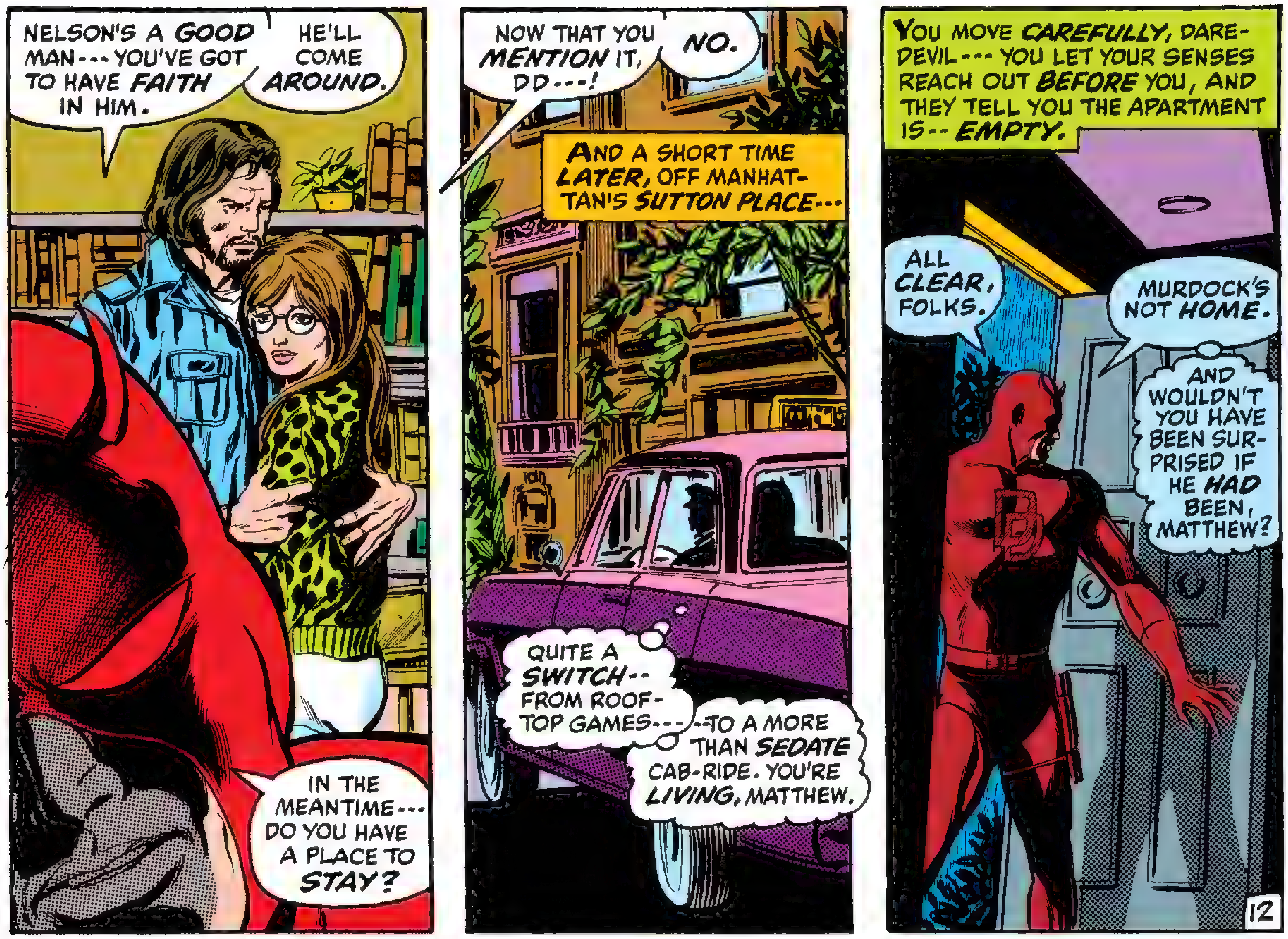

NO! PLEASE DON'T HIT HIM AGAIN.
PLEASE!
SHADDAP! PRETTY BOY CALLED ME A-- WHATWUZIT?
HEY, BULL --MAYBE YOU'D BETTER--!
YEAH--- A "TROGLODYTE" ---AND I KINDA THINK I'VE BEEN INSULTED.
SO, SISTER-- I'M GONNA TURN YOUR BOY FRIEND INTO A MESSA CREAM CHEESE--- WANNA WATCH?
SORRY, HANDSOME-- BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DO IT!
HUH? MY HAND --- SOMETHIN'S SNAKING AROUND MY HAND--!
NOT JUST "SOMETHING", FELLA---
THAT THERE'S MY HANDY-LITTLE BILLY CLUB WIRE!
BUT-- I SUPPOSE YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED.
HAVE YOU MET THE SIDEWALK YET?
AHHH-- BUT OF COURSE YOU HAVE.
THAT'S IT RIGHT NOW!
URRRK!
KRUNCH!

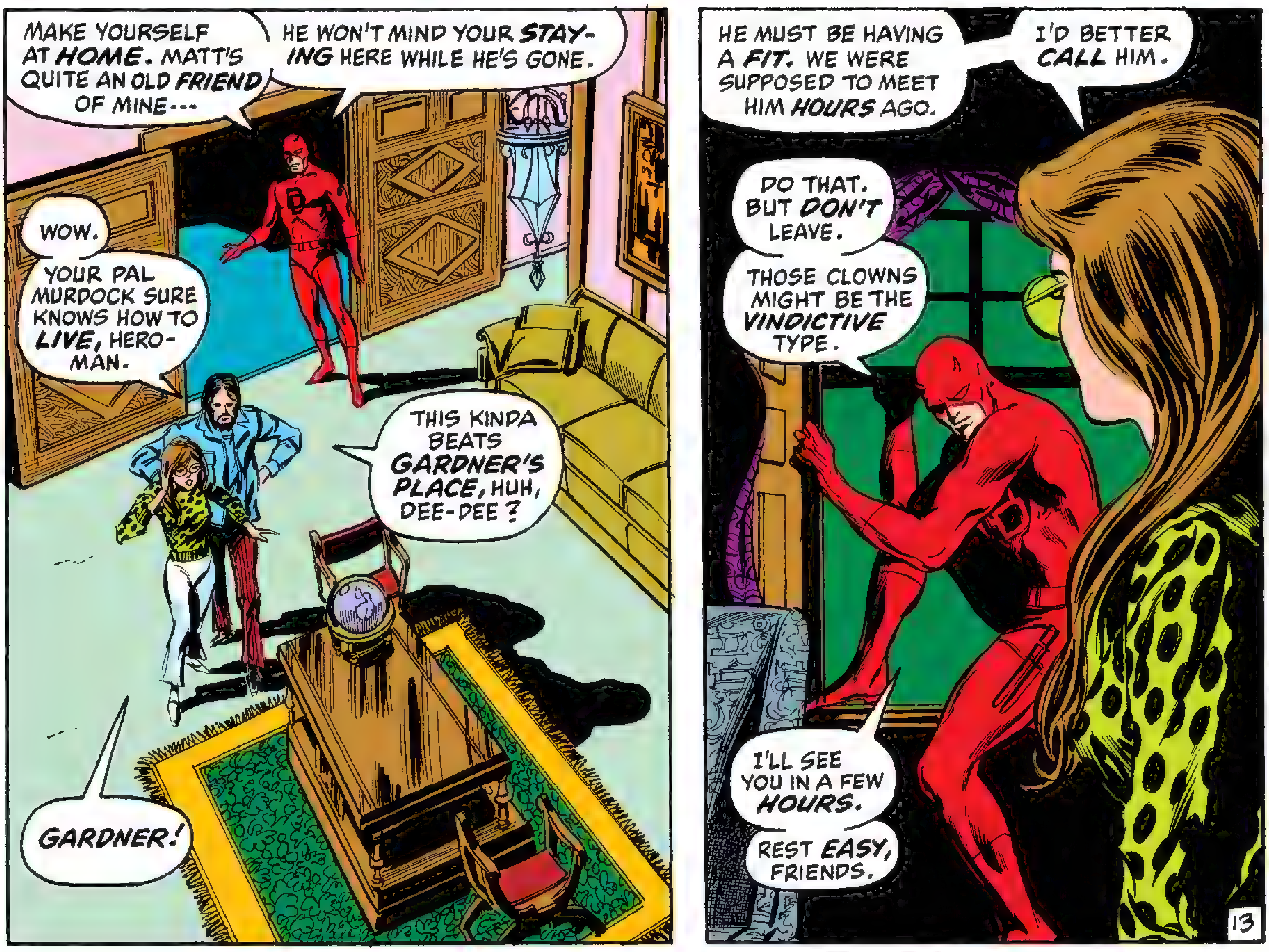

DON'T WORRY, BULL-- I KIN HANDLE HIM FOR YA--- MMRRF!
WHAT WAS THAT, BOY? DIDN'T HEAR YOU OVER THAT "CLUMP"!
ITCH! FREAK-FACE-- GIT 'IM!
"GIT 'IM?" SHAME--- YOUR FOURTH GRADE TEACHER WILL BE HORRIFIED---
THAT IS--- IF YOU GOT TO THE FOURTH GRADE.
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
HE'S MOVIN' LIKE A BLASTED FROG.
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, MATTHEW--
YOUR NERVE-ENDS FEEL AS RAW AS A HALF-SHAVED CARROT. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
IS IT KAREN-- IS THAT THE PROBLEM, MASKED MAN?
DAREDEVIL!
THAT'S MY NAME, MISS.
'COURSE ---MY FRIENDS CALL ME DD...
BUT JUNIOR HERE CAN CALL ME--- DAREDEVIL.
IF HE'S ABLE TO TALK AGAIN.

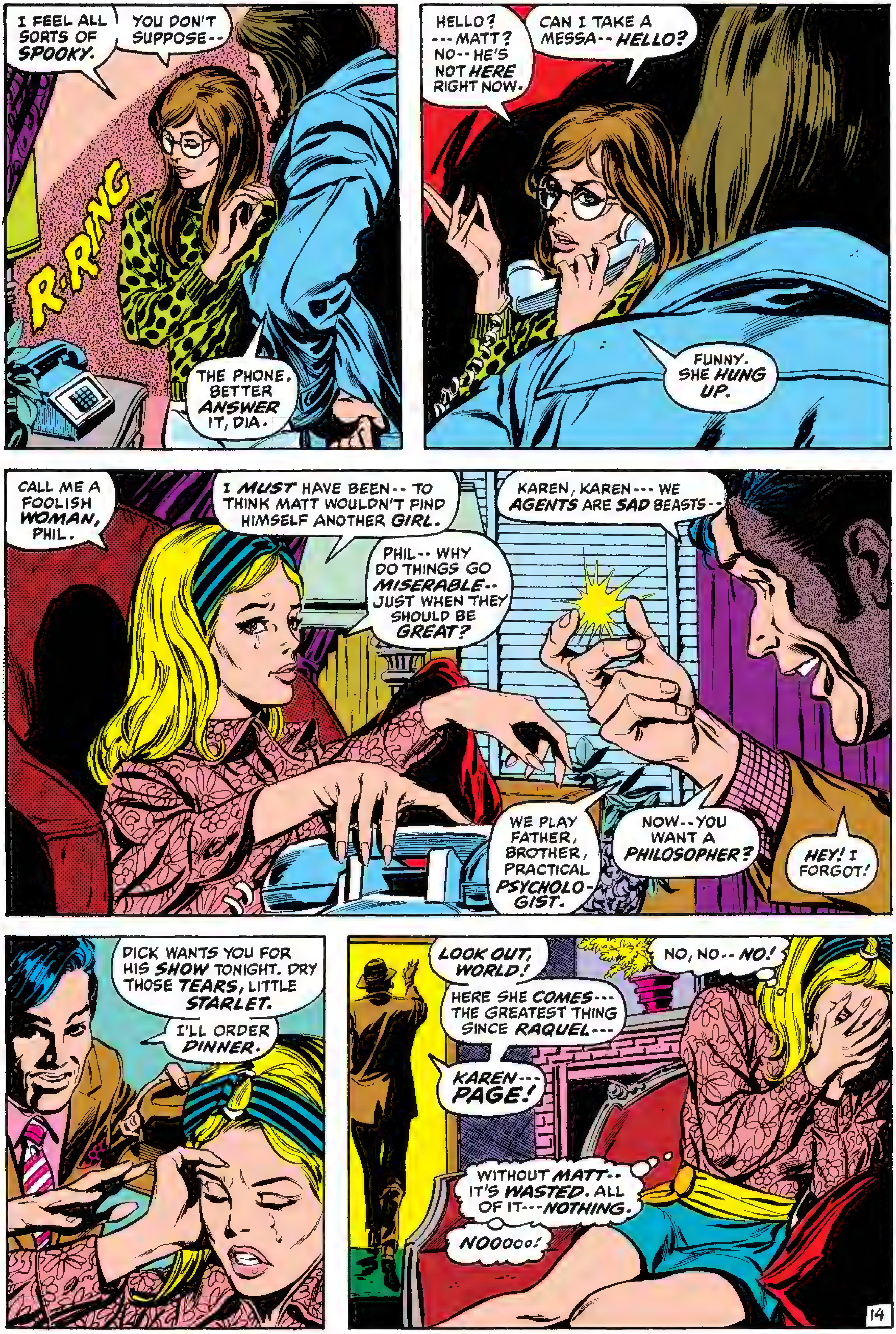

OKAY, BUSTER-- NO MORE FOOLIN' AROUND.
I'M GONNA BUST YER SPINE.
WHAT WAS IT THEY CALLED YOU --- THE BULL?
YEAH--
I'M--
HUH--??
EL TORO--
OLÉ!
KAREN--ISN'T SHE ALL YOU CAN THINK OF, MURDOCK?
MURDOCK-- YOU FOOL.
THAT TEARS IT, HERO-MAN.
NO MORE KID-GLOVES.
HEY, PAL---
NOW THAT THINGS ARE A BIT EVEN--
--I'D LIKE TO MAKE A POINT--
--ABOUT INVASION OF PRIVACY!
I THINK-- JUST MAYBE-- HE GOT YOUR POINT, FRIEND.

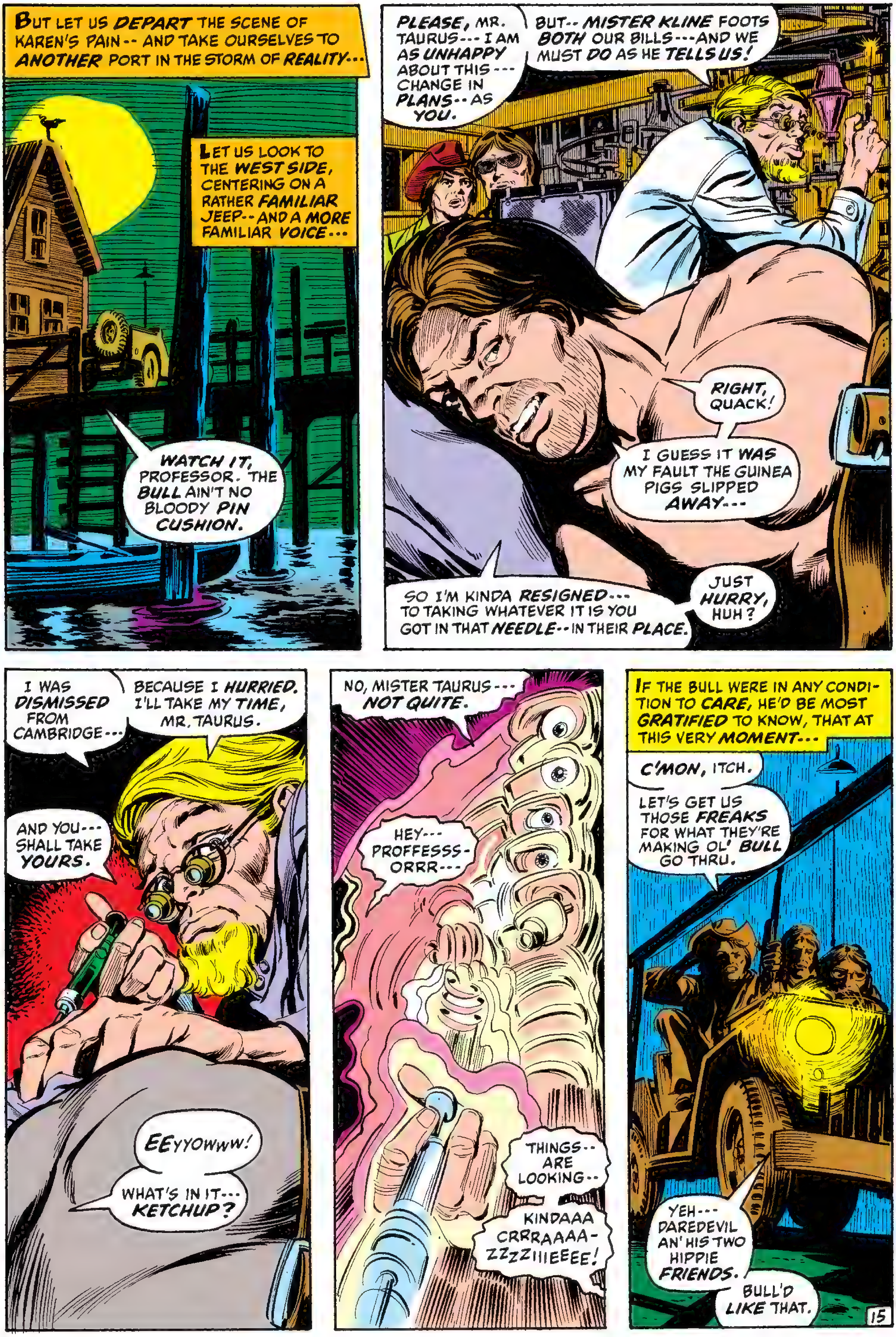

SPLIT!
WE DON'T HAVE THE CHANCE OF A ONE-LEGGED HORSE AT THE BIG A!
THE PROF'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO -- WITH US!
I THINK THAT'S JUST ABOUT THE LAST WE'LL SEE OF THEM!
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT, ANYWAY?
SOMETHING ABOUT--- AN EXPERIMENT OF SOME SORT. THAT BIG GUY-- BULL-- WANTED TO USE US--- FOR GUINEA PIGS.
THINGS WERE GETTING PRETTY HAIRY BY THE TIME YOU SHOWED UP, DAREDEVIL.
I NOTICED!
CARE TO PRESS CHARGES?
PLAY THE ESTABLISHMENT GAME? WEIRD---!
YEAH. WELL, I SUPPOSE SO. MY NAME'S GEORGE ---GEORGE ALEC--!
AND THIS HERE PIECE OF PULCHRITUDE IS MY WIFE, DIA.
COME ON, KIDS.
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS A FRIEND OF MINE.
WHAT GIVES US THE SUFFERERS--- THE ONES WHOSE SHORT LIVES SEEM DOOMED EVER TO BE MARKED BY IRONY---?
LOOK AT THEM, MATTHEW-- THEY'RE EVERYTHING YOU'RE NOT WITH KAREN--
HAPPY.. MARRIED-- TOGETHER.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR LIFE, MURDOCK?
WHY CAN'T YOU MAKE IT?
NO ANSWERS. SILENCE IS PART OF THE GAME.

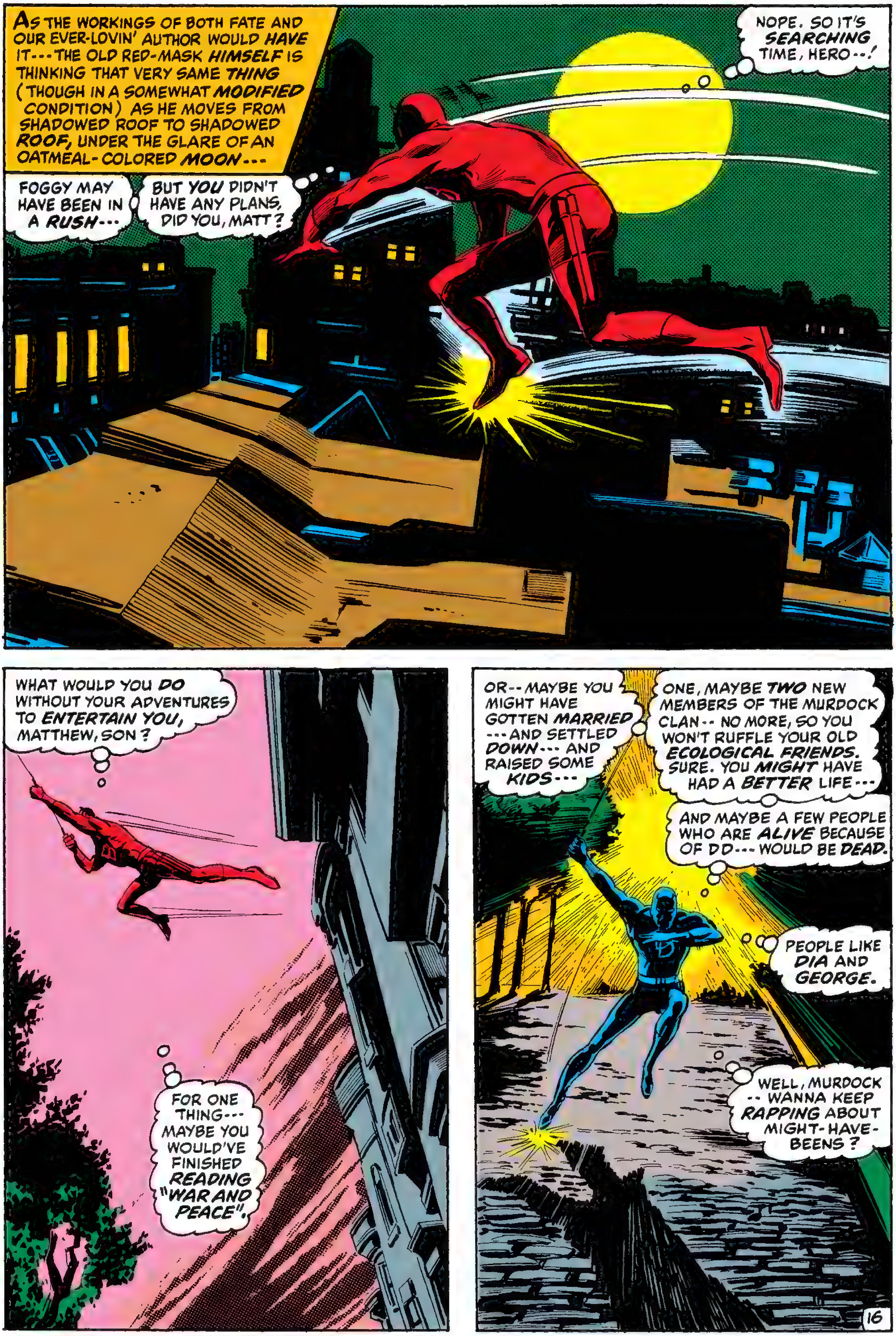

I'VE TOLD YOU---
I CAN'T KEEP MEETING THOSE--- PAYMENTS.
I'M NOT A RICH MAN!
COME NOW, MR. NELSON---
AS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY-- YOU MUST HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES--- TO MAKE A LITTLE EXTRA.
PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY --- SOON.
NOW, LOOK. I'M NOT GOING TO--!
BUT YOU ARE--- YOU ARE!
CLICK!
BLAST!
WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO, FOGGY?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE??
FOGGY. HOPE WE'RE NOT BARGING IN.
YOUR SECRETARY---
FORGET WHAT SHE SAID, DAREDEVIL. I'M OUT.
DO ME A FAVOR, WILL YOU?
IF YOU SEE A SHYSTER NAMED MURDOCK--
--TELL HIM I WANT TO SEE HIM--- TOMORROW, AT THE ABSOLUTE LATEST.
FOGGY, THIS IS IMPORTANT--!
NELS
D.A.
SORRY, MASKED MAN-- I HAVEN'T ANY TIME.
WOW. SO MUCH FOR PLAYING THE STRAIGHT GAME.
DIDN'T KNOW YOUR FRIEND WAS A HIPPIE-HATER.
WHOA, GEORGE---
SLAM

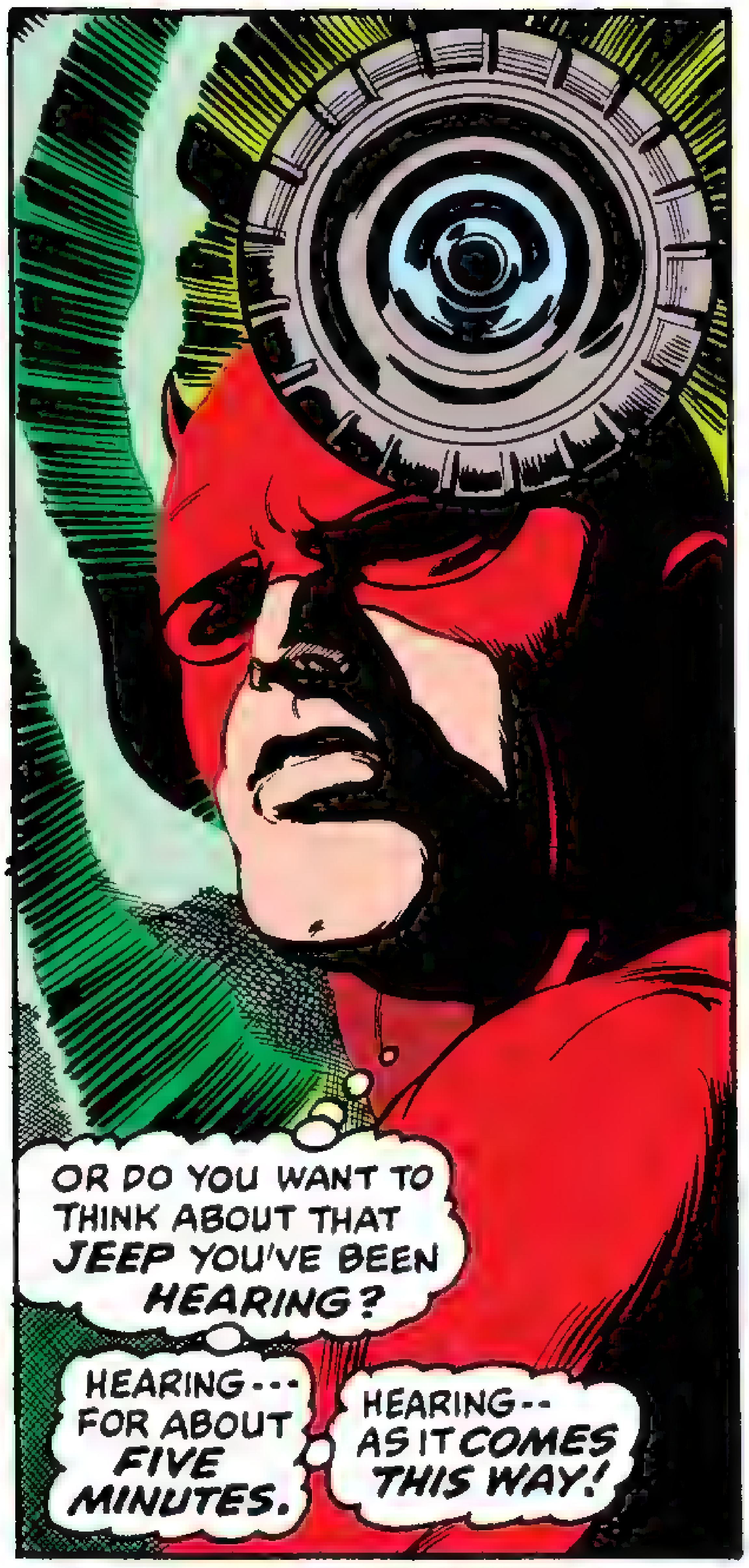

NELSON'S A GOOD MAN--- YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE FAITH IN HIM.
HE'LL COME AROUND.
IN THE MEANTIME--- DO YOU HAVE A PLACE TO STAY?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, DD---!
NO.
AND A SHORT TIME LATER, OFF MANHATTAN'S SUTTON PLACE---
QUITE A SWITCH-- FROM ROOF-TOP GAMES---
--TO A MORE THAN SEDATE CAB-RIDE. YOU'RE LIVING, MATTHEW.
YOU MOVE CAREFULLY, DAREDEVIL--- YOU LET YOUR SENSES REACH OUT BEFORE YOU, AND THEY TELL YOU THE APARTMENT IS-- EMPTY.
ALL CLEAR, FOLKS.
MURDOCK'S NOT HOME.
AND WOULDN'T YOU HAVE BEEN SURPRISED IF HE HAD BEEN, MATTHEW?
12

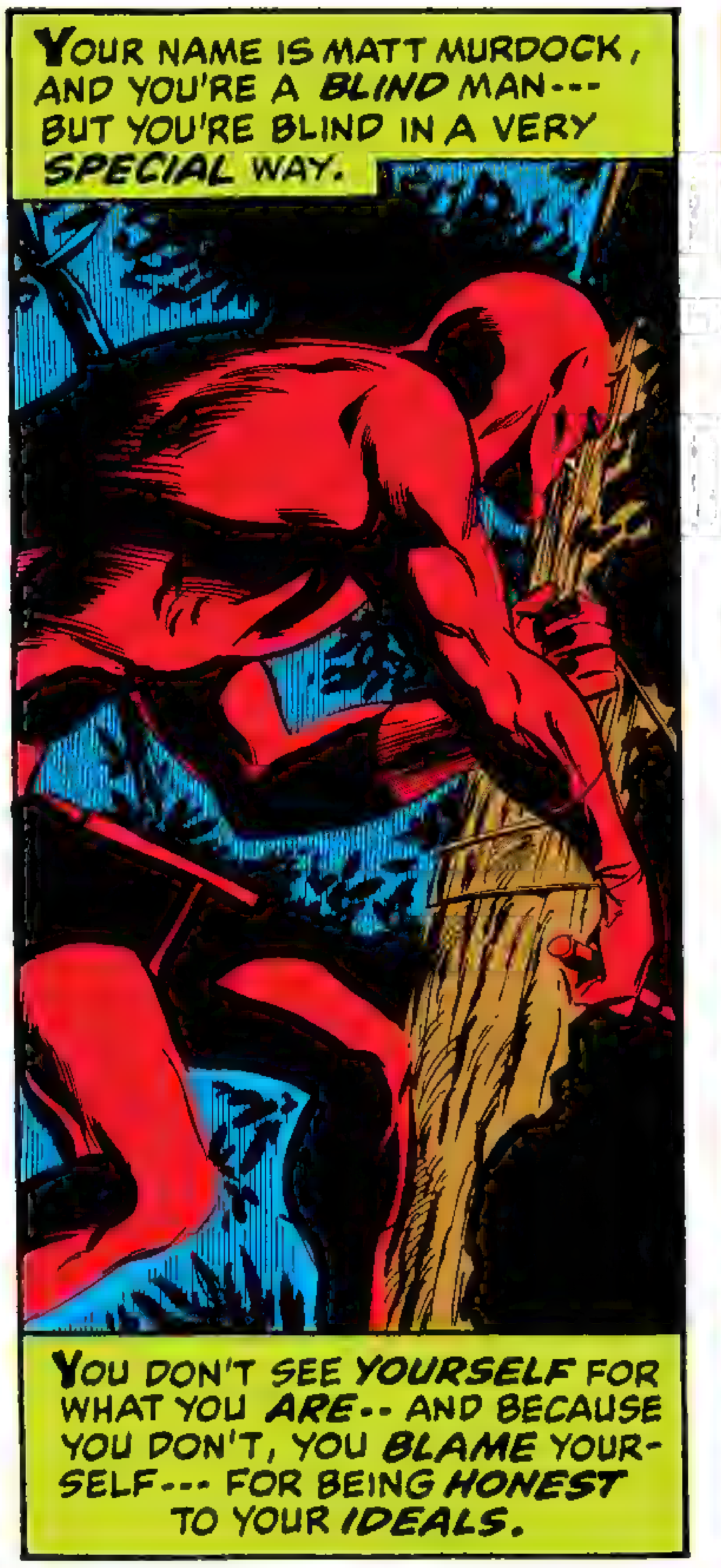

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME. MATT'S QUITE AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE---
HE WON'T MIND YOUR STAYING HERE WHILE HE'S GONE.
WOW.
YOUR PAL MURDOCK SURE KNOWS HOW TO LIVE, HERO-MAN.
THIS KINDA BEATS GARDNER'S PLACE, HUH, DEE-DEE?
GARDNER!
HE MUST BE HAVING A FIT. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET HIM HOURS AGO.
I'D BETTER CALL HIM.
DO THAT. BUT DON'T LEAVE.
THOSE CLOWNS MIGHT BE THE VINDICTIVE TYPE.
I'LL SEE YOU IN A FEW HOURS.
REST EASY, FRIENDS.
13

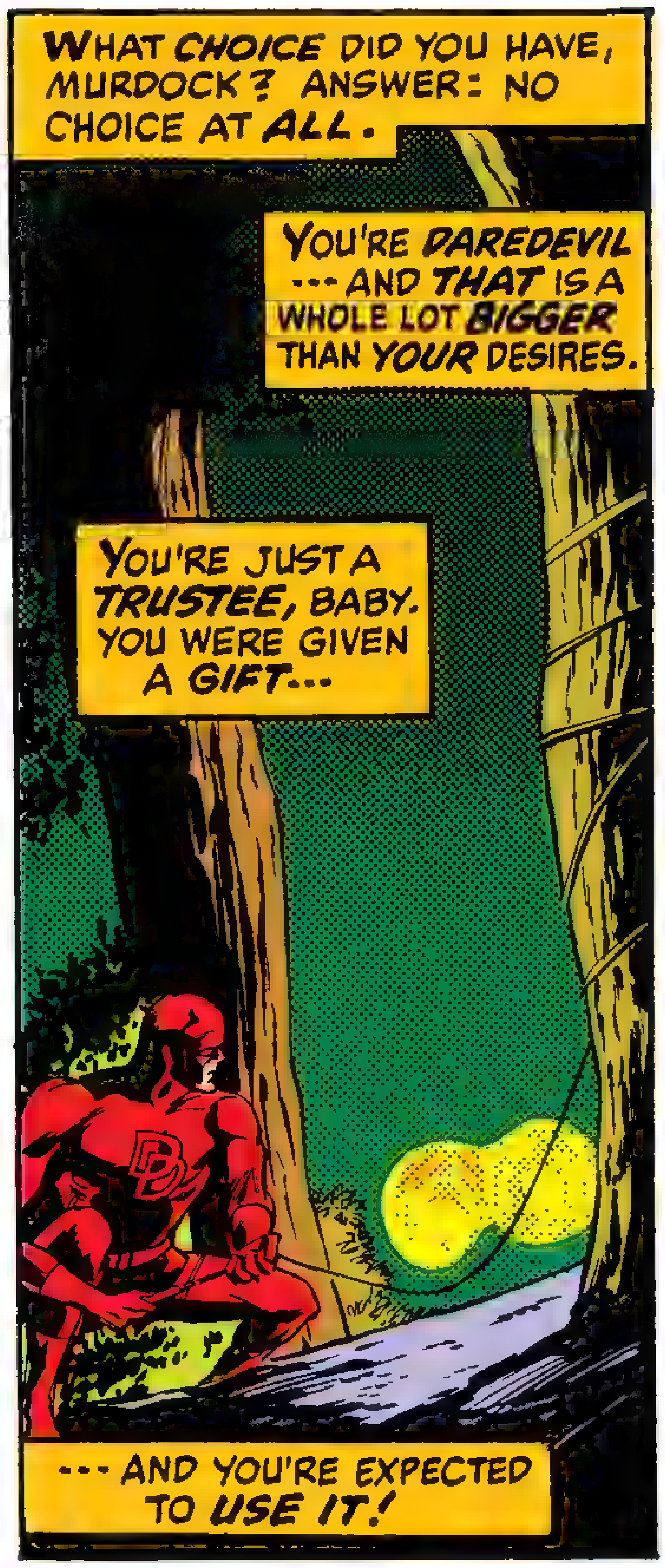

I FEEL ALL SORTS OF *SPOOKY*.
YOU DON'T SUPPOSE--
R-RING
THE PHONE. BETTER *ANSWER* IT, DIA.
HELLO? ---MATT? NO-- HE'S NOT *HERE* RIGHT NOW.
CAN I TAKE A MESSA-- *HELLO?*
FUNNY. SHE *HUNG UP*.
CALL ME A FOOLISH *WOMAN*, PHIL.
I *MUST* HAVE BEEN-- TO THINK MATT WOULDN'T FIND HIMSELF ANOTHER *GIRL*.
KAREN, KAREN--- WE *AGENTS* ARE *SAD* BEASTS--
PHIL-- WHY DO THINGS GO *MISERABLE*-- JUST WHEN THEY SHOULD BE *GREAT?*
WE PLAY FATHER, BROTHER, PRACTICAL *PSYCHOLOGIST*.
NOW--YOU WANT A *PHILOSOPHER?*
HEY! I FORGOT!
DICK WANTS YOU FOR HIS *SHOW* TONIGHT. DRY THOSE *TEARS*, LITTLE *STARLET*.
I'LL ORDER *DINNER*.
LOOK OUT, WORLD!
HERE SHE *COMES*--- THE GREATEST THING SINCE *RAQUEL*---
KAREN--- PAGE!
NO, NO-- *NO!*
WITHOUT *MATT*-- IT'S *WASTED*. ALL OF IT---*NOTHING*.
NOOooo!

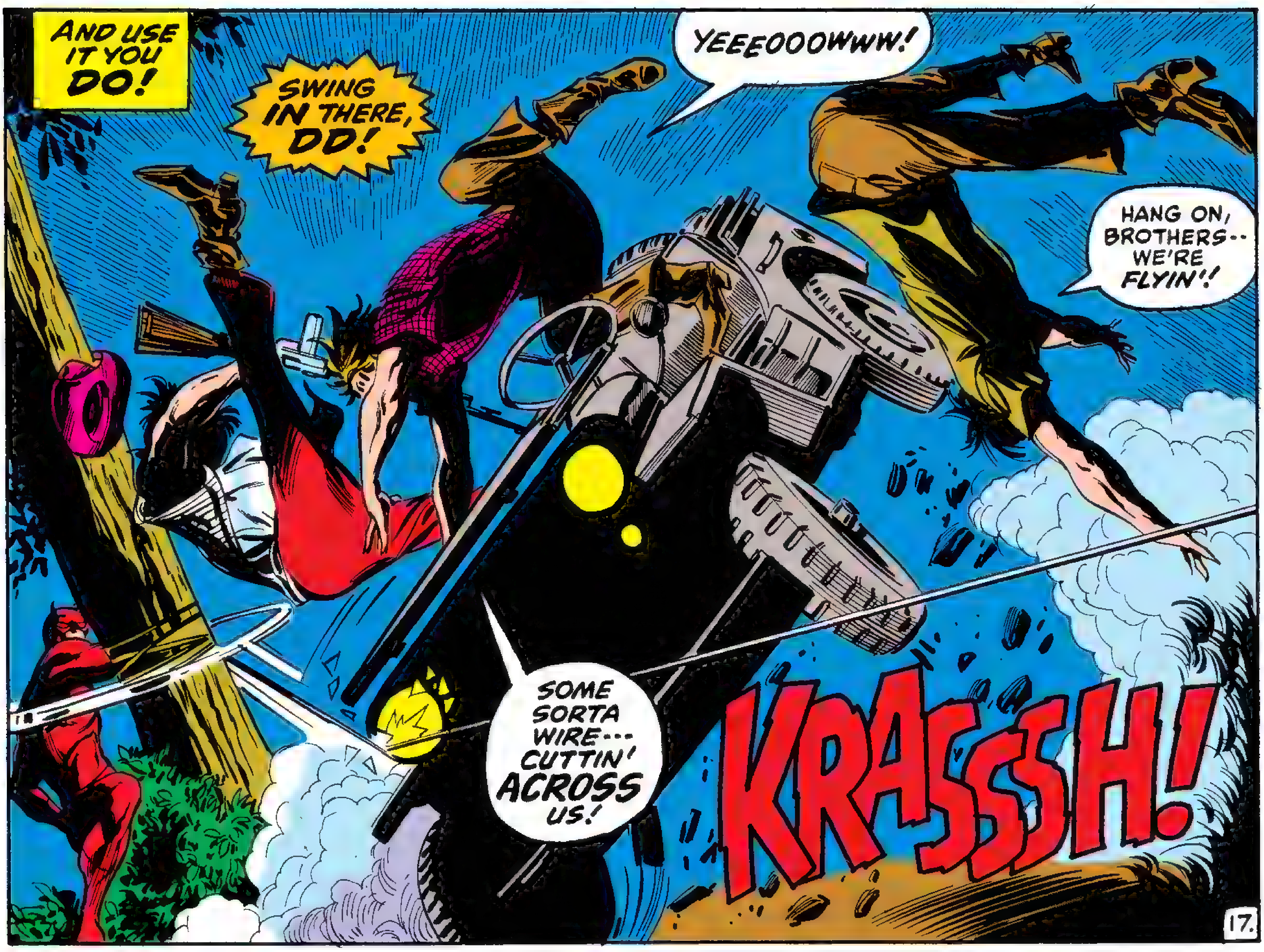

BUT LET US DEPART THE SCENE OF KAREN'S PAIN -- AND TAKE OURSELVES TO ANOTHER PORT IN THE STORM OF REALITY...
LET US LOOK TO THE WEST SIDE, CENTERING ON A RATHER FAMILIAR JEEP -- AND A MORE FAMILIAR VOICE...
WATCH IT, PROFESSOR. THE BULL AIN'T NO BLOODY PIN CUSHION.
PLEASE, MR. TAURUS--- I AM AS UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS--- CHANGE IN PLANS -- AS YOU.
BUT -- MISTER KLINE FOOTS BOTH OUR BILLS---AND WE MUST DO AS HE TELLS US!
RIGHT, QUACK!
I GUESS IT WAS MY FAULT THE GUINEA PIGS SLIPPED AWAY---
SO I'M KINDA RESIGNED--- TO TAKING WHATEVER IT IS YOU GOT IN THAT NEEDLE -- IN THEIR PLACE.
JUST HURRY, HUH?
I WAS DISMISSED FROM CAMBRIDGE---
BECAUSE I HURRIED. I'LL TAKE MY TIME, MR. TAURUS.
AND YOU--- SHALL TAKE YOURS.
EEYYOWWW!
WHAT'S IN IT--- KETCHUP?
NO, MISTER TAURUS--- NOT QUITE.
HEY--- PROFFESSS-ORRR---
THINGS-- ARE LOOKING--
KINDAAA CRRRAAAA-ZZZZIIIEEEE!
IF THE BULL WERE IN ANY CONDITION TO CARE, HE'D BE MOST GRATIFIED TO KNOW, THAT AT THIS VERY MOMENT---
C'MON, ITCH.
LET'S GET US THOSE FREAKS FOR WHAT THEY'RE MAKING OL' BULL GO THRU.
YEH--- DAREDEVIL AN' HIS TWO HIPPIE FRIENDS.
BULL'D LIKE THAT.

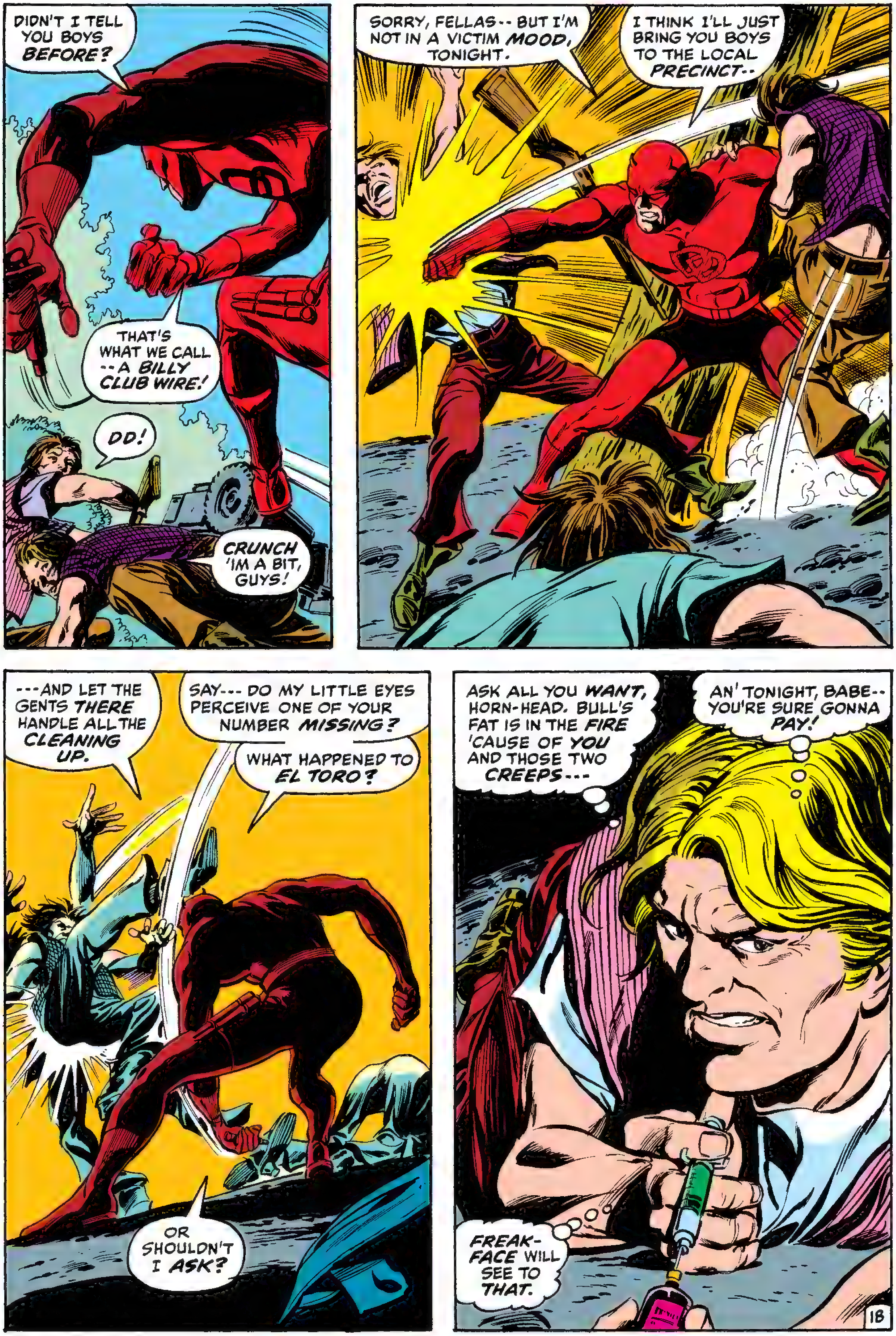

AS THE WORKINGS OF BOTH FATE AND OUR EVER-LOVIN' AUTHOR WOULD HAVE IT--- THE OLD RED-MASK HIMSELF IS THINKING THAT VERY SAME THING (THOUGH IN A SOMEWHAT MODIFIED CONDITION) AS HE MOVES FROM SHADOWED ROOF TO SHADOWED ROOF, UNDER THE GLARE OF AN OATMEAL-COLORED MOON---
FOGGY MAY HAVE BEEN IN A RUSH---
BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY PLANS, DID YOU, MATT?
NOPE. SO IT'S SEARCHING TIME, HERO--!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITHOUT YOUR ADVENTURES TO ENTERTAIN YOU, MATTHEW, SON?
FOR ONE THING--- MAYBE YOU WOULD'VE FINISHED READING "WAR AND PEACE".
OR-- MAYBE YOU MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN MARRIED --- AND SETTLED DOWN--- AND RAISED SOME KIDS---
ONE, MAYBE TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE MURDOCK CLAN-- NO MORE, SO YOU WON'T RUFFLE YOUR OLD ECOLOGICAL FRIENDS. SURE. YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD A BETTER LIFE---
AND MAYBE A FEW PEOPLE WHO ARE ALIVE BECAUSE OF DD--- WOULD BE DEAD.
PEOPLE LIKE DIA AND GEORGE.
WELL, MURDOCK -- WANNA KEEP RAPPING ABOUT MIGHT-HAVE-BEENS?

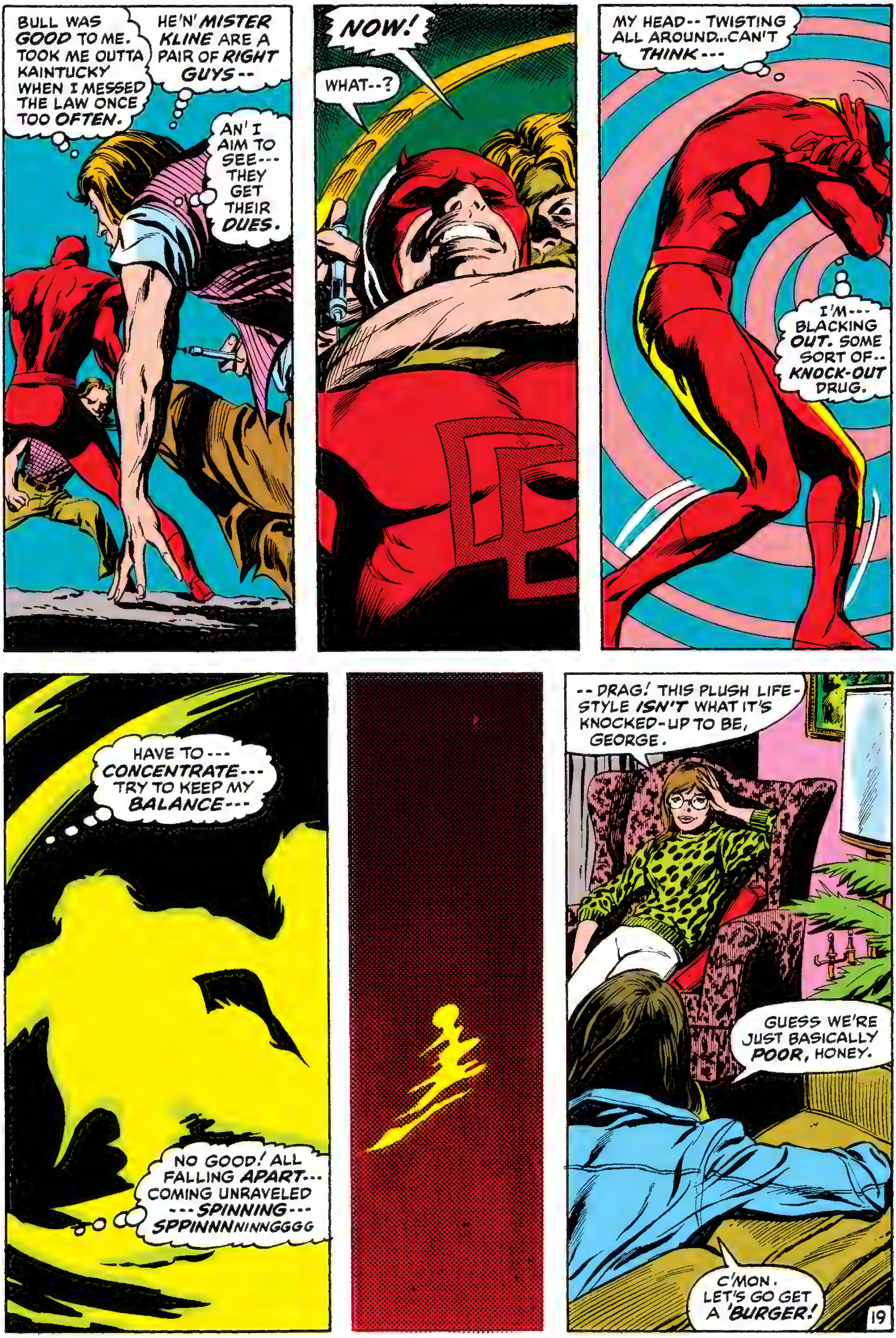

OR DO YOU WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT JEEP YOU'VE BEEN HEARING?
HEARING--- FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES.
HEARING-- AS IT COMES THIS WAY!

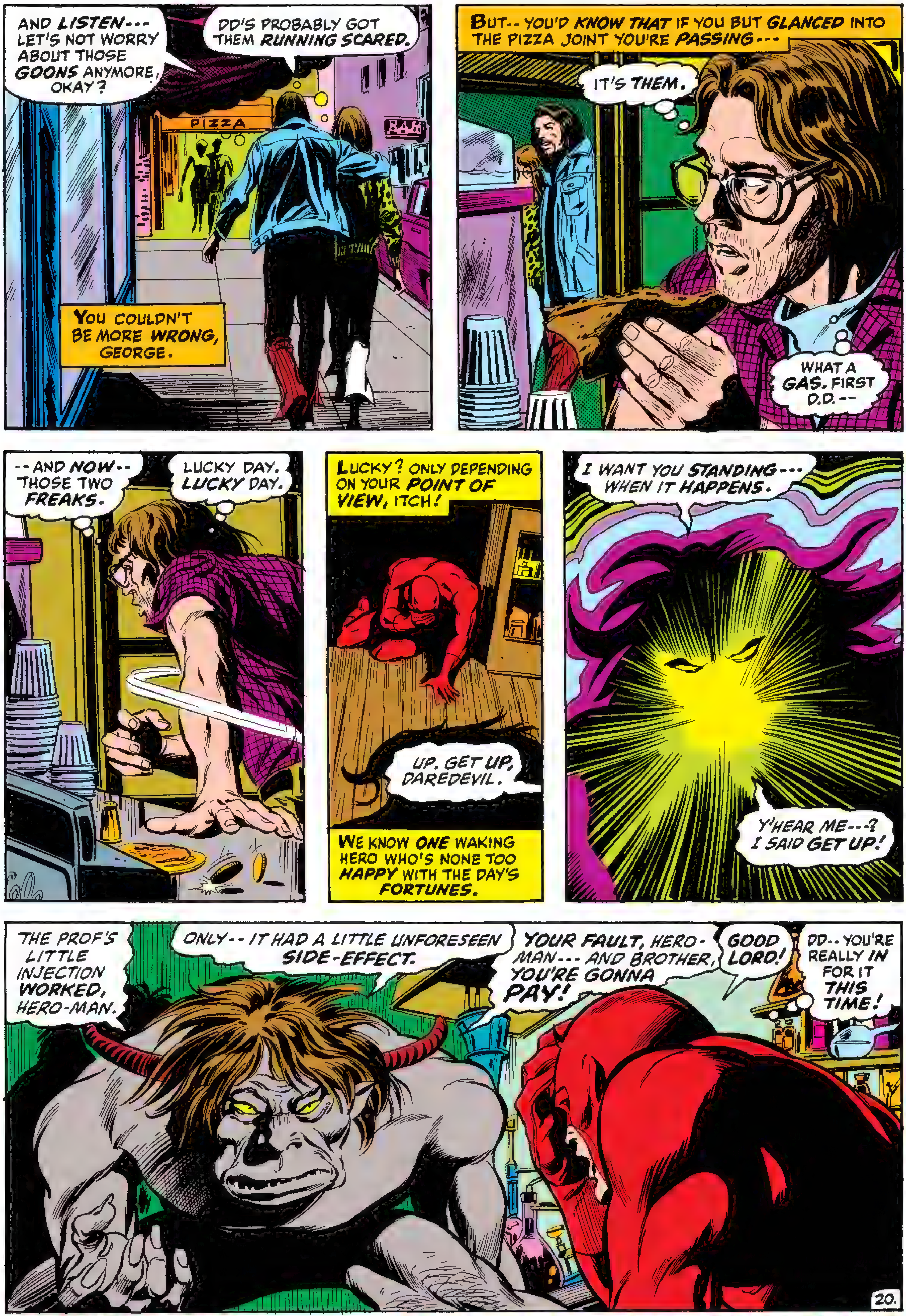

YOUR NAME IS MATT MURDOCK, AND YOU'RE A BLIND MAN--- BUT YOU'RE BLIND IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY.
YOU DON'T SEE YOURSELF FOR WHAT YOU ARE-- AND BECAUSE YOU DON'T, YOU BLAME YOURSELF--- FOR BEING HONEST TO YOUR IDEALS.


WHAT CHOICE DID YOU HAVE, MURDOCK? ANSWER: NO CHOICE AT ALL.
YOU'RE DAREDEVIL --- AND THAT IS A WHOLE LOT BIGGER THAN YOUR DESIRES.
YOU'RE JUST A TRUSTEE, BABY. YOU WERE GIVEN A GIFT---
DD
--- AND YOU'RE EXPECTED TO USE IT!


AND USE IT YOU DO!
SWING IN THERE, DD!
YEEEOOOWWW!
HANG ON, BROTHERS-- WE'RE FLYIN'!
SOME SORTA WIRE--- CUTTIN' ACROSS US!
KRASSSH!


DIDN'T I TELL YOU BOYS *BEFORE?*
THAT'S WHAT WE CALL --A *BILLY CLUB WIRE!*
DD!
CRUNCH 'IM A BIT, GUYS!
SORRY, FELLAS-- BUT I'M NOT IN A VICTIM *MOOD,* TONIGHT.
I THINK I'LL JUST BRING YOU BOYS TO THE LOCAL *PRECINCT--*
---AND LET THE GENTS *THERE* HANDLE ALL THE *CLEANING UP.*
SAY--- DO MY LITTLE EYES PERCEIVE ONE OF YOUR NUMBER *MISSING?*
WHAT HAPPENED TO *EL TORO?*
OR SHOULDN'T I *ASK?*
ASK ALL YOU *WANT,* HORN-HEAD. BULL'S FAT IS IN THE *FIRE* 'CAUSE OF *YOU* AND THOSE TWO *CREEPS---*
AN' TONIGHT, BABE-- YOU'RE SURE GONNA *PAY!*
FREAK-FACE WILL SEE TO *THAT.*


BULL WAS GOOD TO ME. TOOK ME OUTTA KAINTUCKY WHEN I MESSED THE LAW ONCE TOO OFTEN.
HE'N' MISTER KLINE ARE A PAIR OF RIGHT GUYS --
AN' I AIM TO SEE--- THEY GET THEIR DUES.
NOW!
WHAT--?
MY HEAD-- TWISTING ALL AROUND...CAN'T THINK---
I'M--- BLACKING OUT. SOME SORT OF-- KNOCK-OUT DRUG.
HAVE TO--- CONCENTRATE--- TRY TO KEEP MY BALANCE---
NO GOOD! ALL FALLING APART--- COMING UNRAVELED ---SPINNING--- SPPINNNNINNGGGG
-- DRAG! THIS PLUSH LIFE-STYLE ISN'T WHAT IT'S KNOCKED-UP TO BE, GEORGE.
GUESS WE'RE JUST BASICALLY POOR, HONEY.
C'MON. LET'S GO GET A 'BURGER!


AND LISTEN--- LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THOSE GOONS ANYMORE, OKAY?
DD'S PROBABLY GOT THEM RUNNING SCARED.
PIZZA
YOU COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG, GEORGE.
BUT-- YOU'D KNOW THAT IF YOU BUT GLANCED INTO THE PIZZA JOINT YOU'RE PASSING---
IT'S THEM.
WHAT A GAS. FIRST D.D.--
--AND NOW-- THOSE TWO FREAKS.
LUCKY DAY. LUCKY DAY.
LUCKY? ONLY DEPENDING ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW, ITCH!
UP. GET UP, DAREDEVIL.
WE KNOW ONE WAKING HERO WHO'S NONE TOO HAPPY WITH THE DAY'S FORTUNES.
I WANT YOU STANDING--- WHEN IT HAPPENS.
Y'HEAR ME---? I SAID GET UP!
THE PROF'S LITTLE INJECTION WORKED, HERO-MAN.
ONLY-- IT HAD A LITTLE UNFORESEEN SIDE-EFFECT.
YOUR FAULT, HERO-MAN--- AND BROTHER, YOU'RE GONNA PAY!
GOOD LORD!
DD-- YOU'RE REALLY IN FOR IT THIS TIME!

NEXT ISSUE: THE MAN-- AND THE MINOTAUR.

DARE-DEVIL
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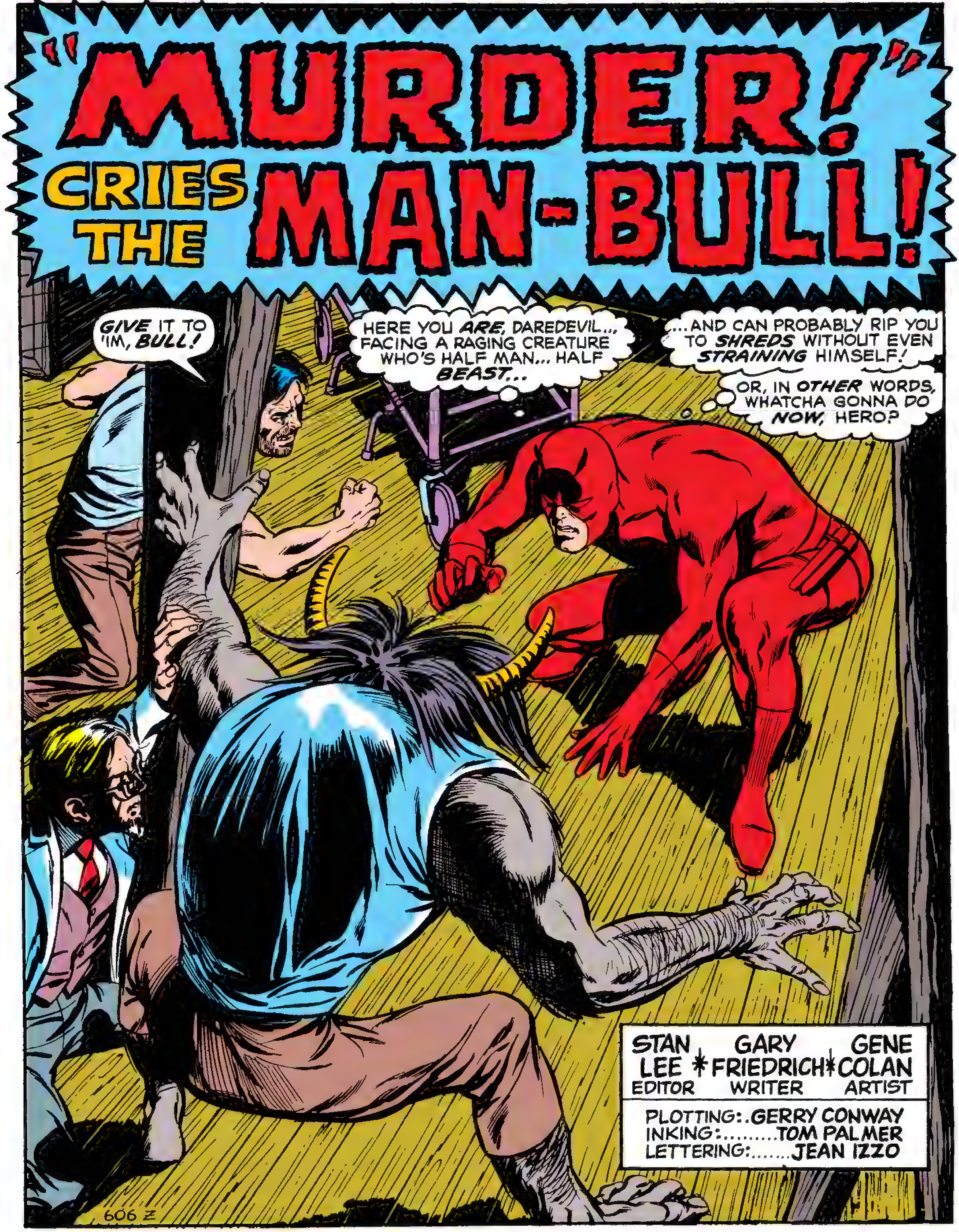
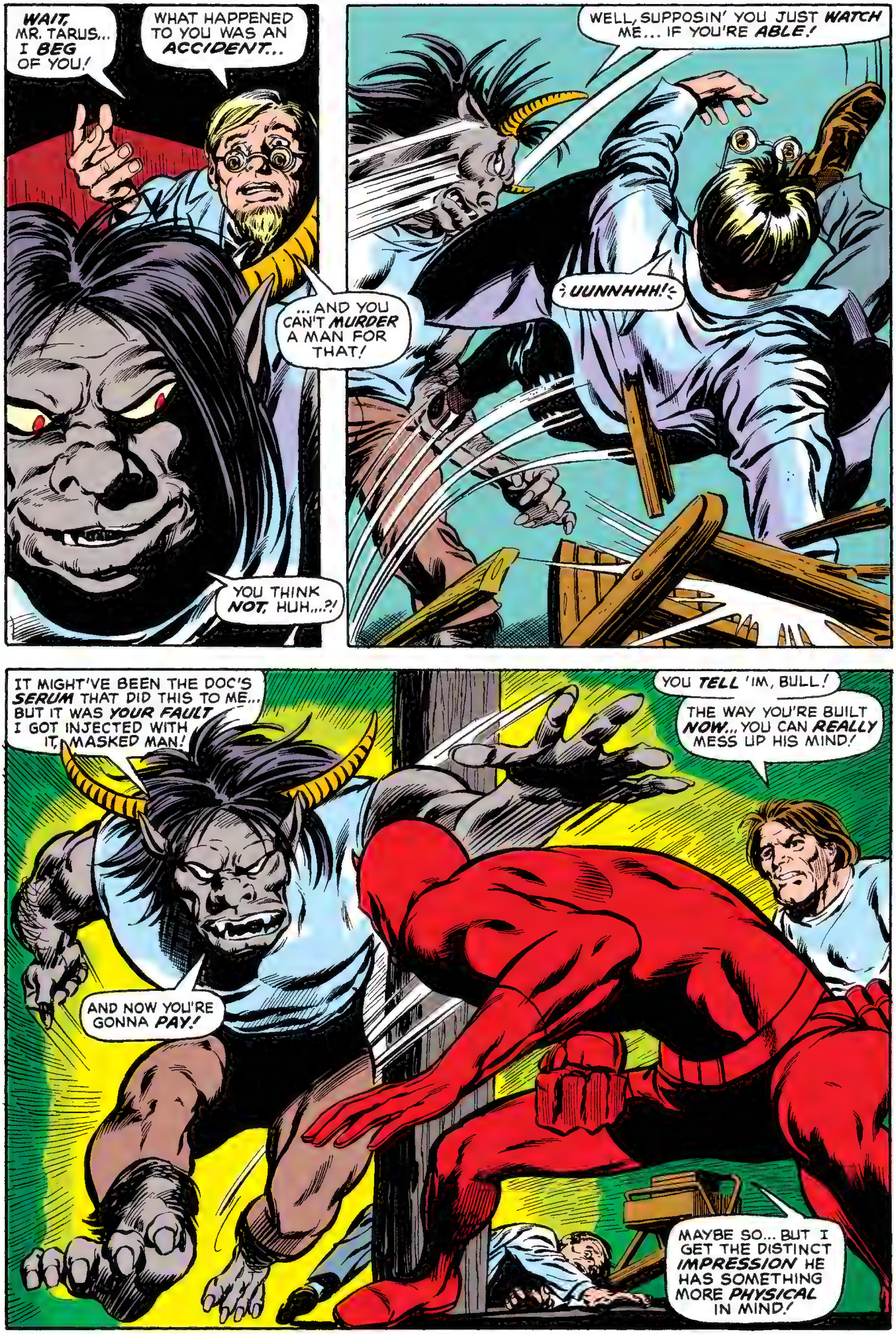
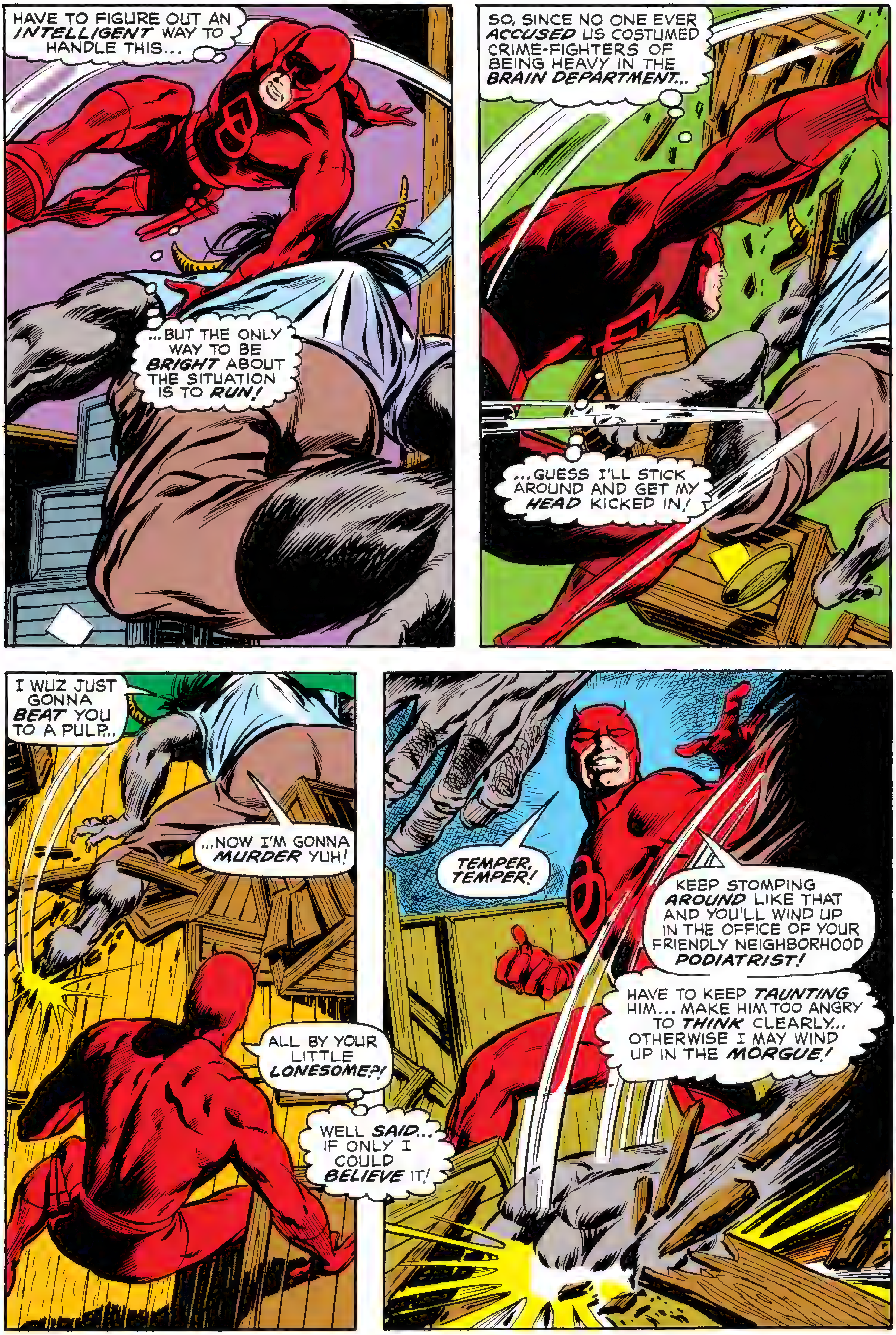
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YOU'VE BEEN A THORN IN MY SIDE LONG ENOUGH, MASKED MAN!
THIS DAY.. YOU DIE!
Sal Buscema
IF THAT HORN-HEAD CONNECTS-- THIS ONE IS FINISHED!
"MURDER!" CRIES THE MAN-BULL!

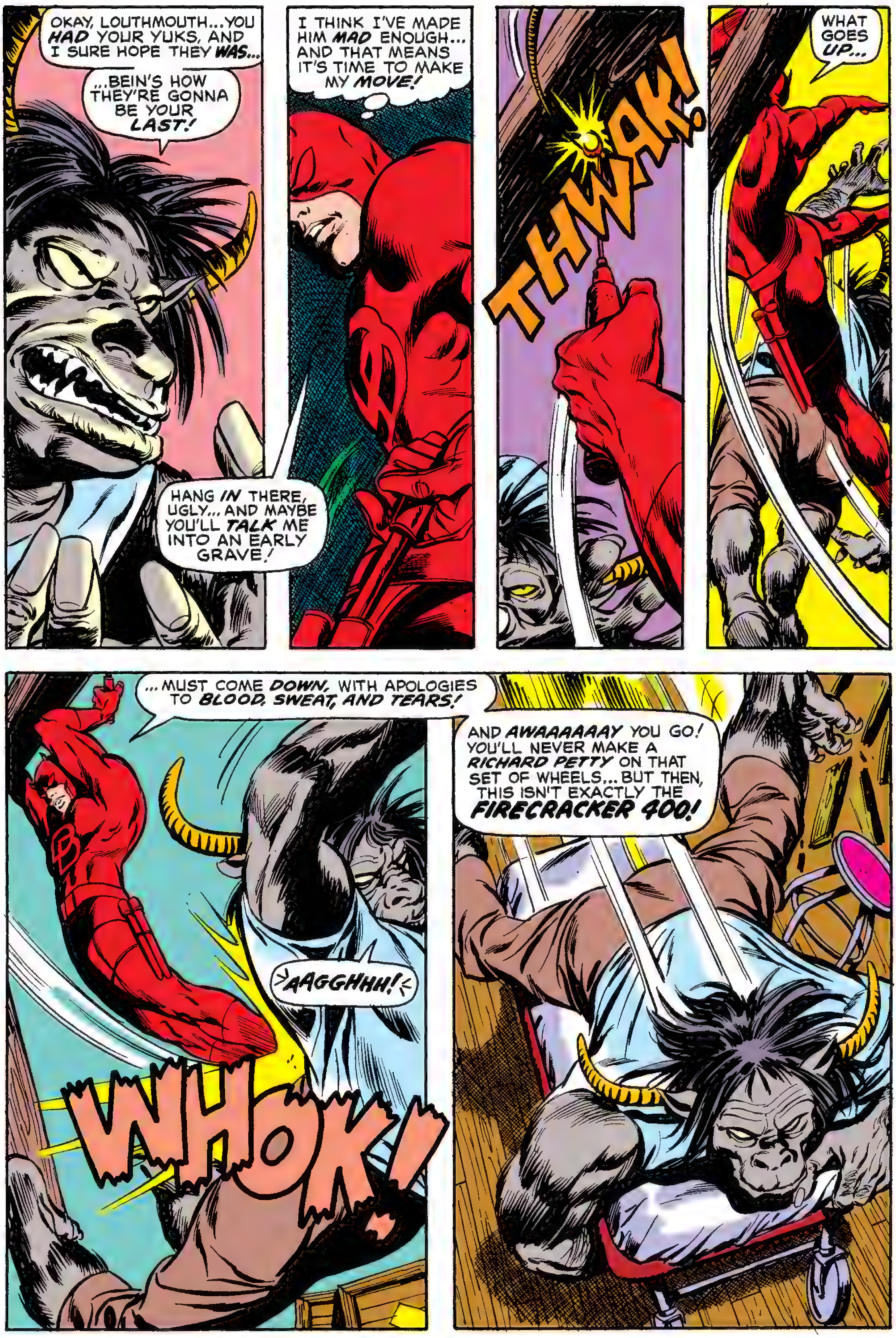
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

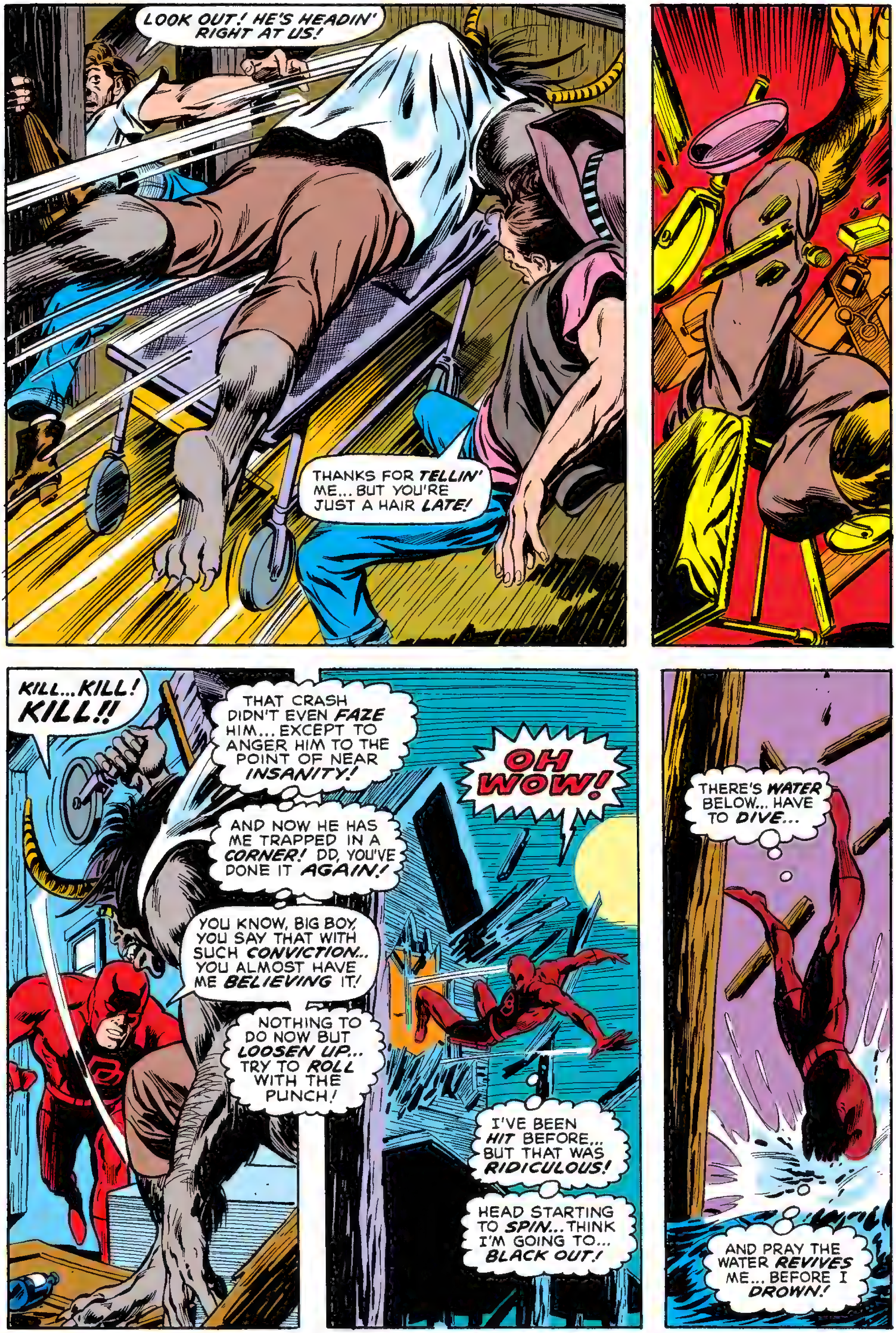
"MURDER!" CRIES THE MAN-BULL!

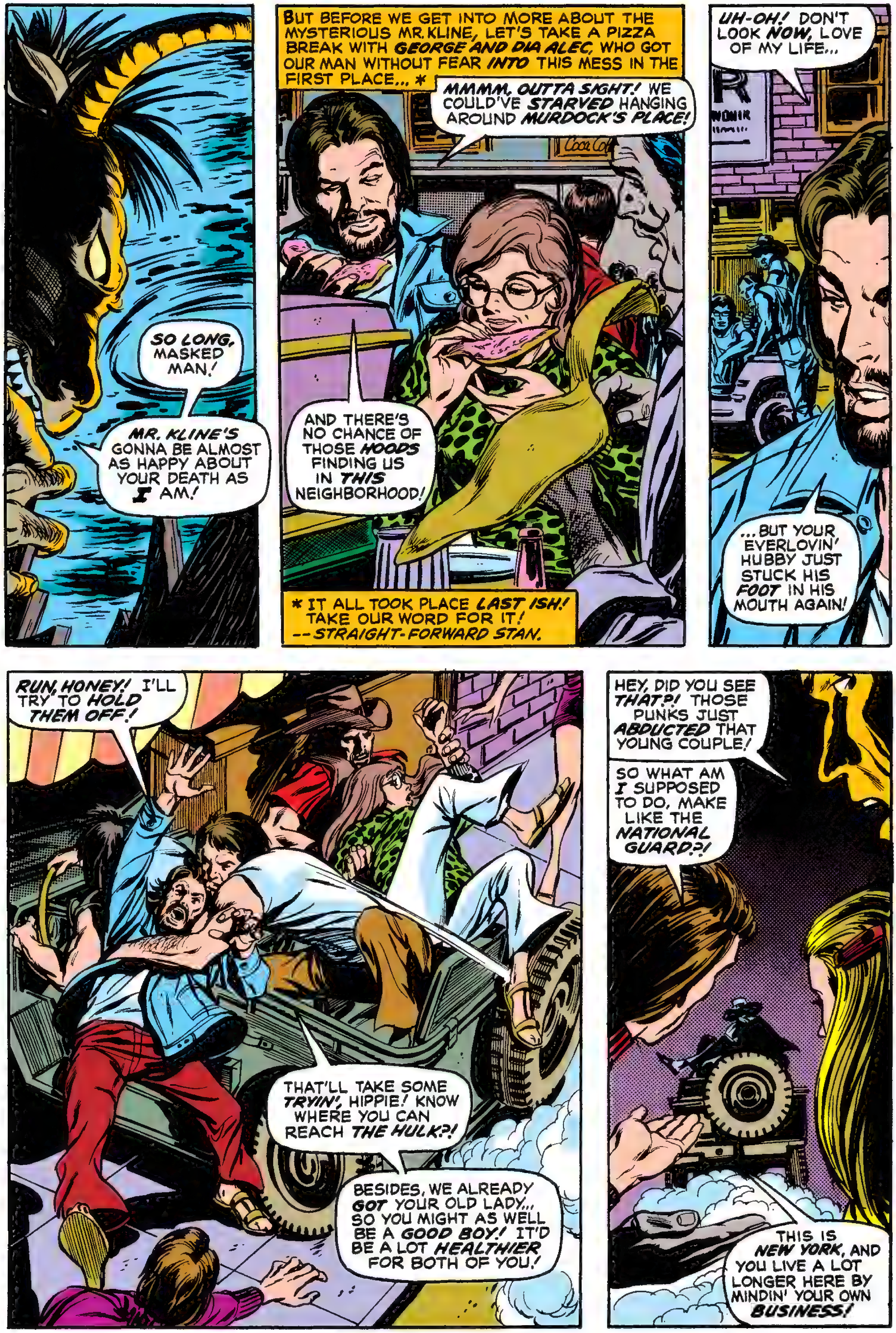

"MURDER!" CRIES THE MAN-BULL!
GIVE IT TO 'IM, BULL!
HERE YOU ARE, DAREDEVIL... FACING A RAGING CREATURE WHO'S HALF MAN... HALF BEAST...
...AND CAN PROBABLY RIP YOU TO SHREDS WITHOUT EVEN STRAINING HIMSELF!
OR, IN OTHER WORDS, WHATCHA GONNA DO NOW, HERO?
STAN LEE EDITOR * GARY FRIEDRICH WRITER * GENE COLAN ARTIST
PLOTTING:.GERRY CONWAY
INKING:.........TOM PALMER
LETTERING:.......JEAN IZZO
606 Z

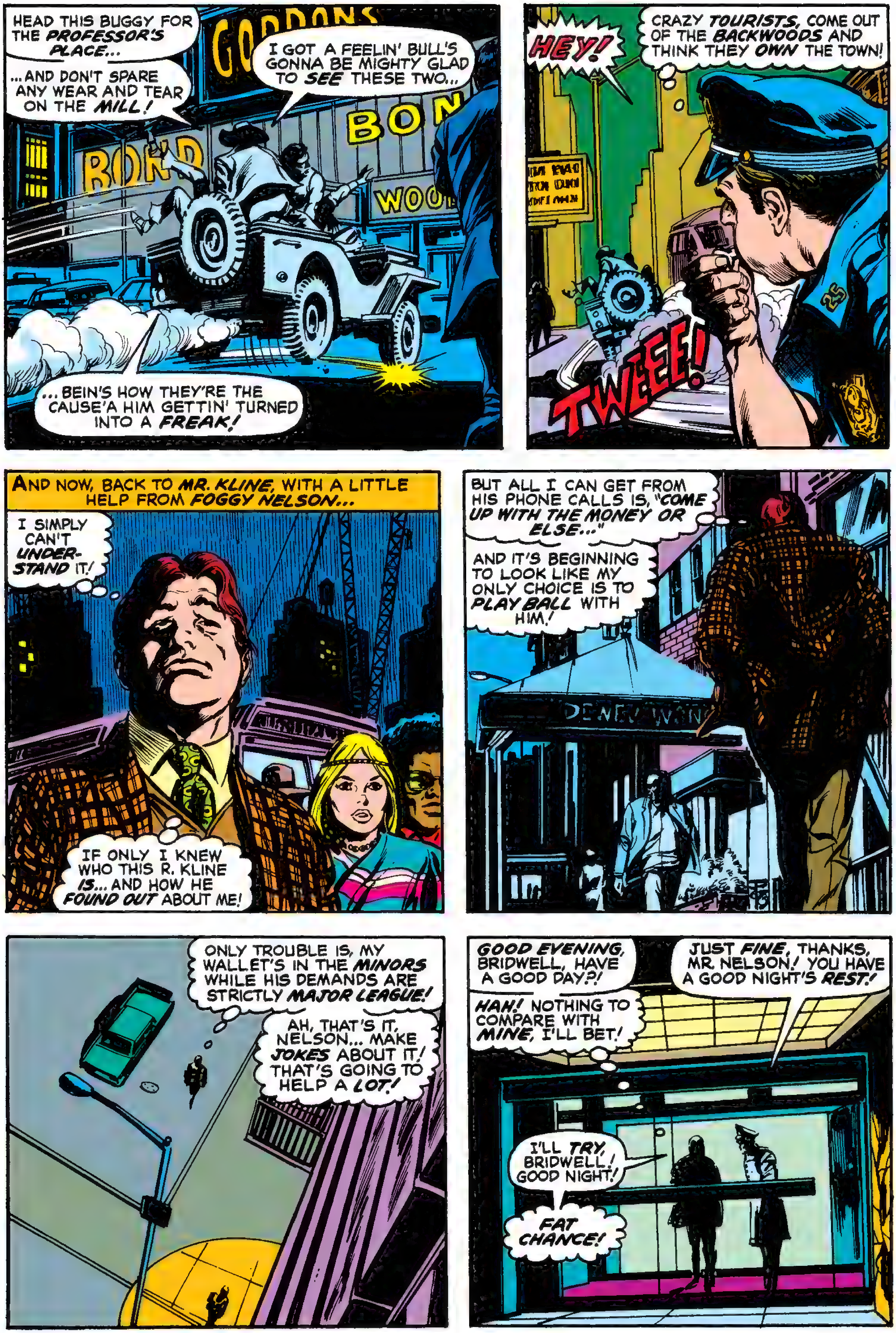

WAIT, MR. TARUS... I BEG OF YOU!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WAS AN ACCIDENT...
...AND YOU CAN'T MURDER A MAN FOR THAT!
YOU THINK NOT, HUH...?!
WELL, SUPPOSIN' YOU JUST WATCH ME... IF YOU'RE ABLE!
UUNNHHH!
IT MIGHT'VE BEEN THE DOC'S SERUM THAT DID THIS TO ME... BUT IT WAS YOUR FAULT I GOT INJECTED WITH IT, MASKED MAN!
AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY!
YOU TELL 'IM, BULL!
THE WAY YOU'RE BUILT NOW... YOU CAN REALLY MESS UP HIS MIND!
MAYBE SO... BUT I GET THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION HE HAS SOMETHING MORE PHYSICAL IN MIND!


HAVE TO FIGURE OUT AN *INTELLIGENT* WAY TO HANDLE THIS...
...BUT THE ONLY WAY TO BE *BRIGHT* ABOUT THE SITUATION IS TO *RUN!*
SO, SINCE NO ONE EVER *ACCUSED* US COSTUMED CRIME-FIGHTERS OF BEING HEAVY IN THE *BRAIN DEPARTMENT...*
...GUESS I'LL STICK AROUND AND GET MY *HEAD* KICKED IN!
I WUZ JUST GONNA *BEAT* YOU TO A PULP...
...NOW I'M GONNA *MURDER* YUH!
ALL BY YOUR LITTLE *LONESOME?!*
WELL *SAID*... IF ONLY I COULD *BELIEVE* IT!
TEMPER, TEMPER!
KEEP STOMPING *AROUND* LIKE THAT AND YOU'LL WIND UP IN THE OFFICE OF YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD *PODIATRIST!*
HAVE TO KEEP *TAUNTING* HIM... MAKE HIM TOO ANGRY TO *THINK* CLEARLY... OTHERWISE I MAY WIND UP IN THE *MORGUE!*

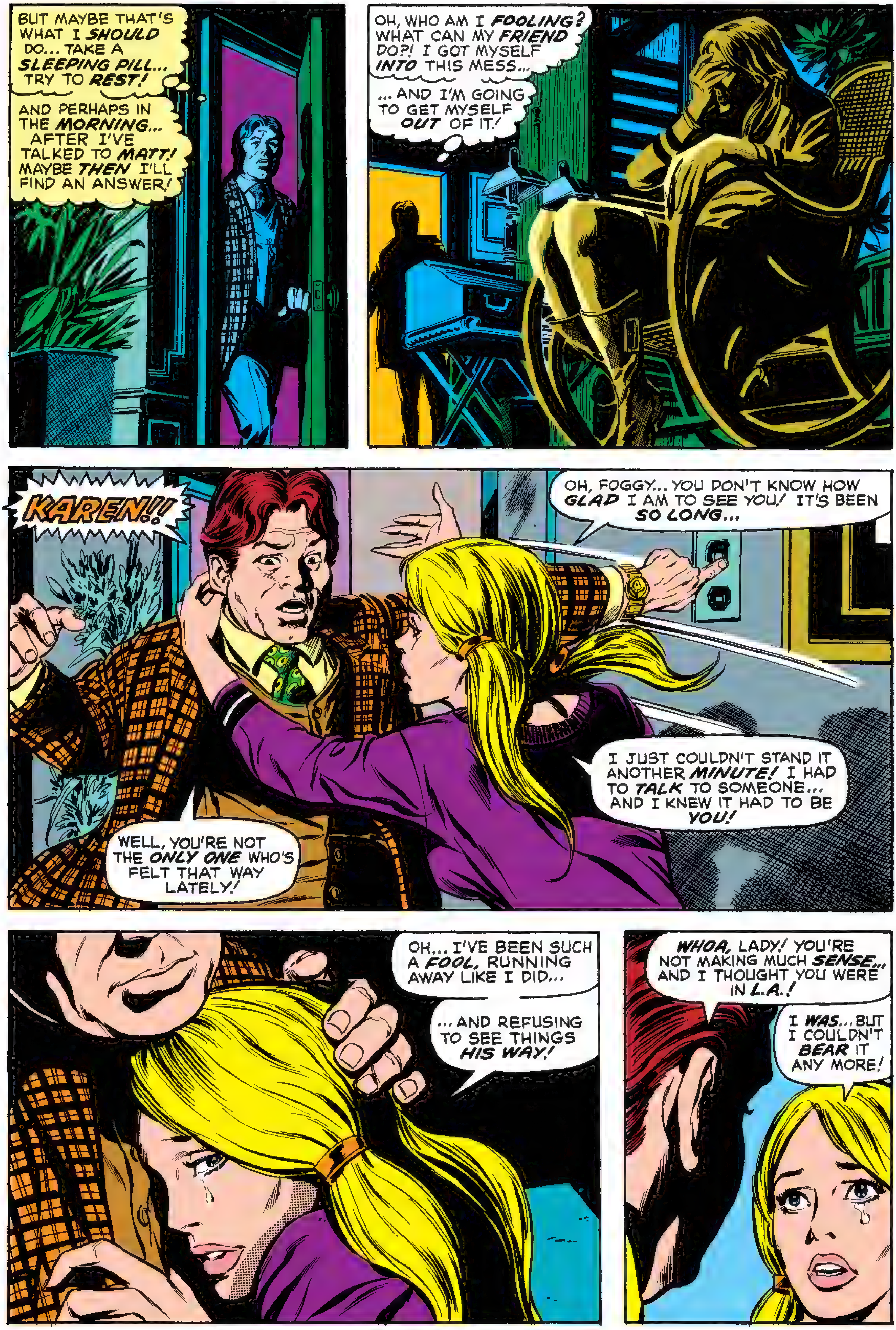

OKAY, LOUTHMOUTH...YOU *HAD* YOUR YUKS, AND I SURE HOPE THEY *WAS*...
...BEIN'S HOW THEY'RE GONNA BE YOUR *LAST!*
HANG *IN* THERE, UGLY... AND MAYBE YOU'LL *TALK* ME INTO AN EARLY GRAVE!
I THINK I'VE MADE HIM *MAD* ENOUGH... AND THAT MEANS IT'S TIME TO MAKE MY *MOVE!*
THWAK!
WHAT GOES *UP*...
...MUST COME *DOWN,* WITH APOLOGIES TO *BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS!*
AAGGHHH!
WHOK!
AND *AWAAAAAAY* YOU GO! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A *RICHARD PETTY* ON THAT SET OF WHEELS... BUT THEN, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY THE *FIRECRACKER 400!*

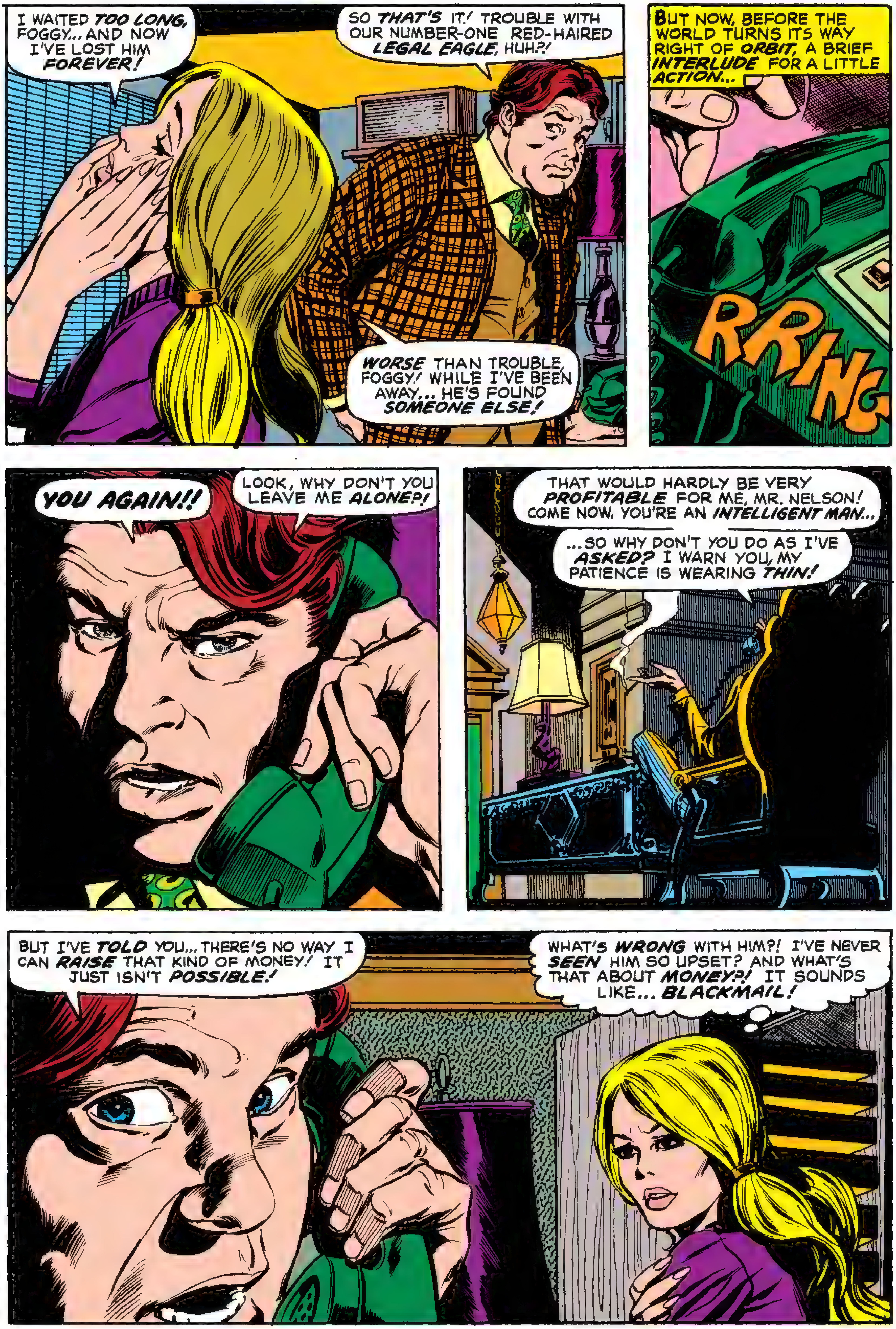

LOOK OUT! HE'S HEADIN' RIGHT AT US!
THANKS FOR TELLIN' ME... BUT YOU'RE JUST A HAIR LATE!
KILL...KILL! KILL!!
THAT CRASH DIDN'T EVEN FAZE HIM... EXCEPT TO ANGER HIM TO THE POINT OF NEAR INSANITY!
AND NOW HE HAS ME TRAPPED IN A CORNER! DD, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!
YOU KNOW, BIG BOY, YOU SAY THAT WITH SUCH CONVICTION... YOU ALMOST HAVE ME BELIEVING IT!
NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT LOOSEN UP... TRY TO ROLL WITH THE PUNCH!
OH WOW!
I'VE BEEN HIT BEFORE... BUT THAT WAS RIDICULOUS!
HEAD STARTING TO SPIN... THINK I'M GOING TO... BLACK OUT!
THERE'S WATER BELOW... HAVE TO DIVE...
AND PRAY THE WATER REVIVES ME... BEFORE I DROWN!

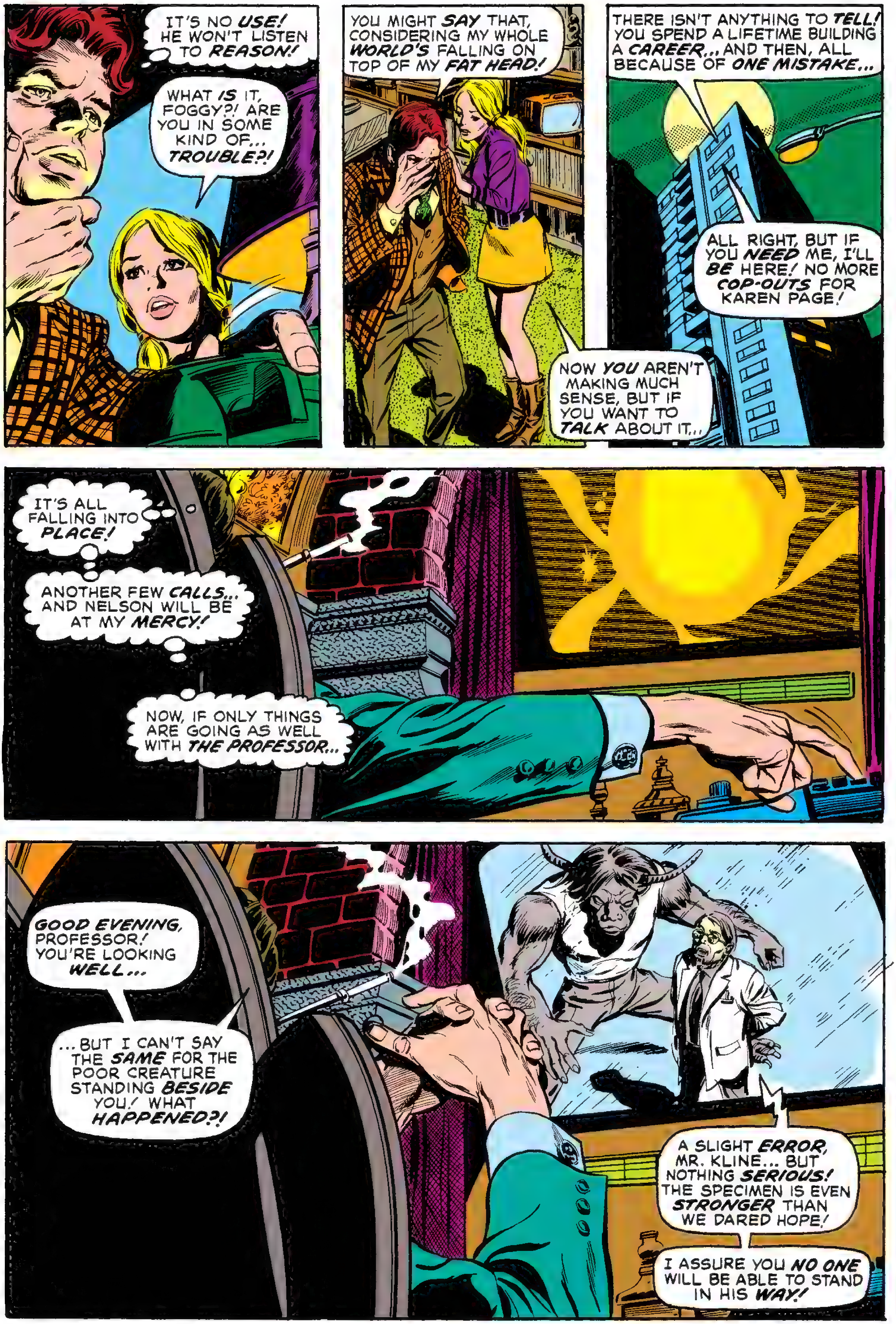

SO LONG, MASKED MAN!
MR. KLINE'S GONNA BE ALMOST AS HAPPY ABOUT YOUR DEATH AS I AM!
BUT BEFORE WE GET INTO MORE ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS MR. KLINE, LET'S TAKE A PIZZA BREAK WITH GEORGE AND DIA ALEC, WHO GOT OUR MAN WITHOUT FEAR INTO THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE... *
MMMM, OUTTA SIGHT! WE COULD'VE STARVED HANGING AROUND MURDOCK'S PLACE!
AND THERE'S NO CHANCE OF THOSE HOODS FINDING US IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!
* IT ALL TOOK PLACE LAST ISH! TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT! --STRAIGHT-FORWARD STAN.
UH-OH! DON'T LOOK NOW, LOVE OF MY LIFE...
...BUT YOUR EVERLOVIN' HUBBY JUST STUCK HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH AGAIN!
RUN, HONEY! I'LL TRY TO HOLD THEM OFF!
THAT'LL TAKE SOME TRYIN', HIPPIE! KNOW WHERE YOU CAN REACH THE HULK?!
BESIDES, WE ALREADY GOT YOUR OLD LADY... SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE A GOOD BOY! IT'D BE A LOT HEALTHIER FOR BOTH OF YOU!
HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT?! THOSE PUNKS JUST ABDUCTED THAT YOUNG COUPLE!
SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, MAKE LIKE THE NATIONAL GUARD?!
THIS IS NEW YORK, AND YOU LIVE A LOT LONGER HERE BY MINDIN' YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

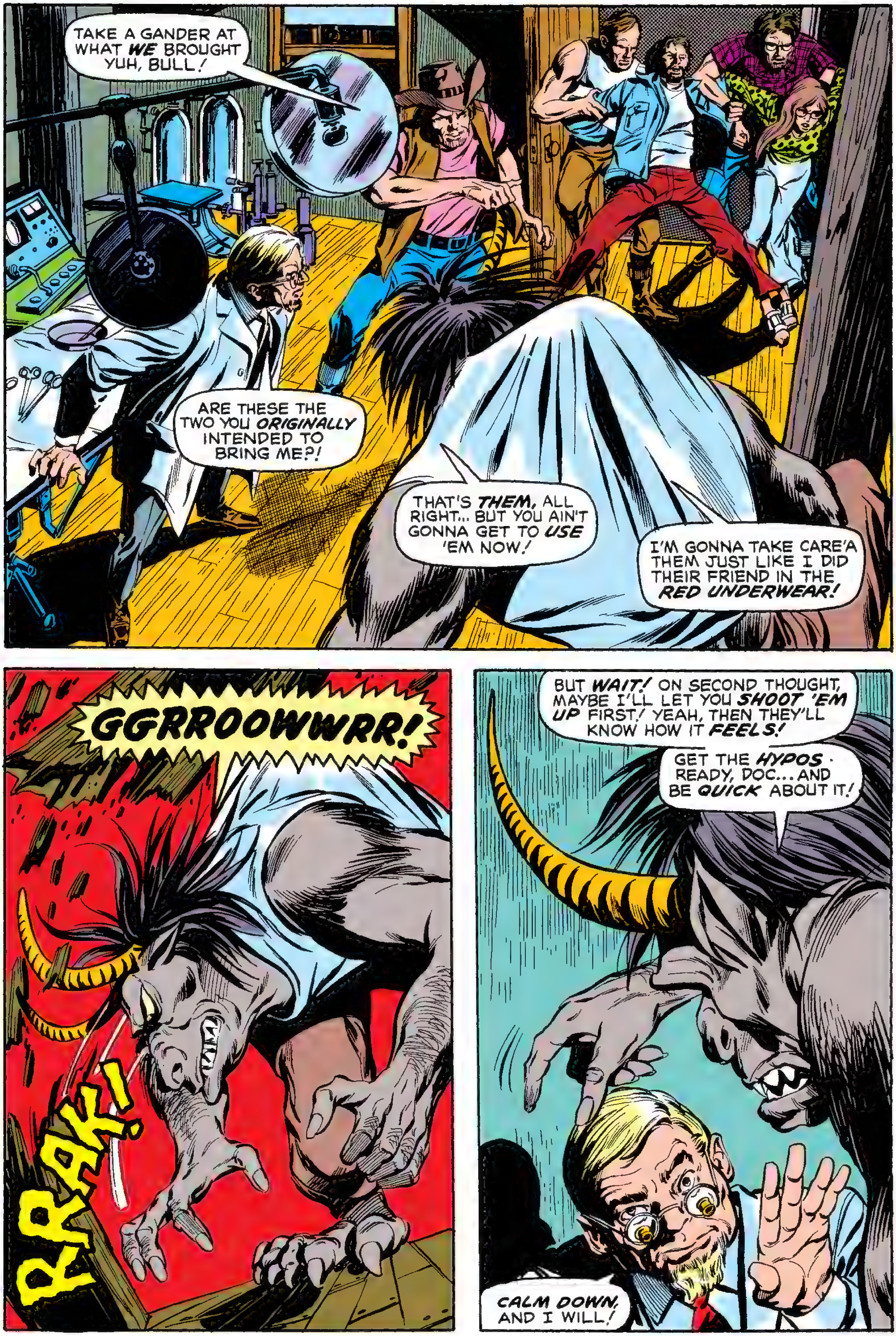


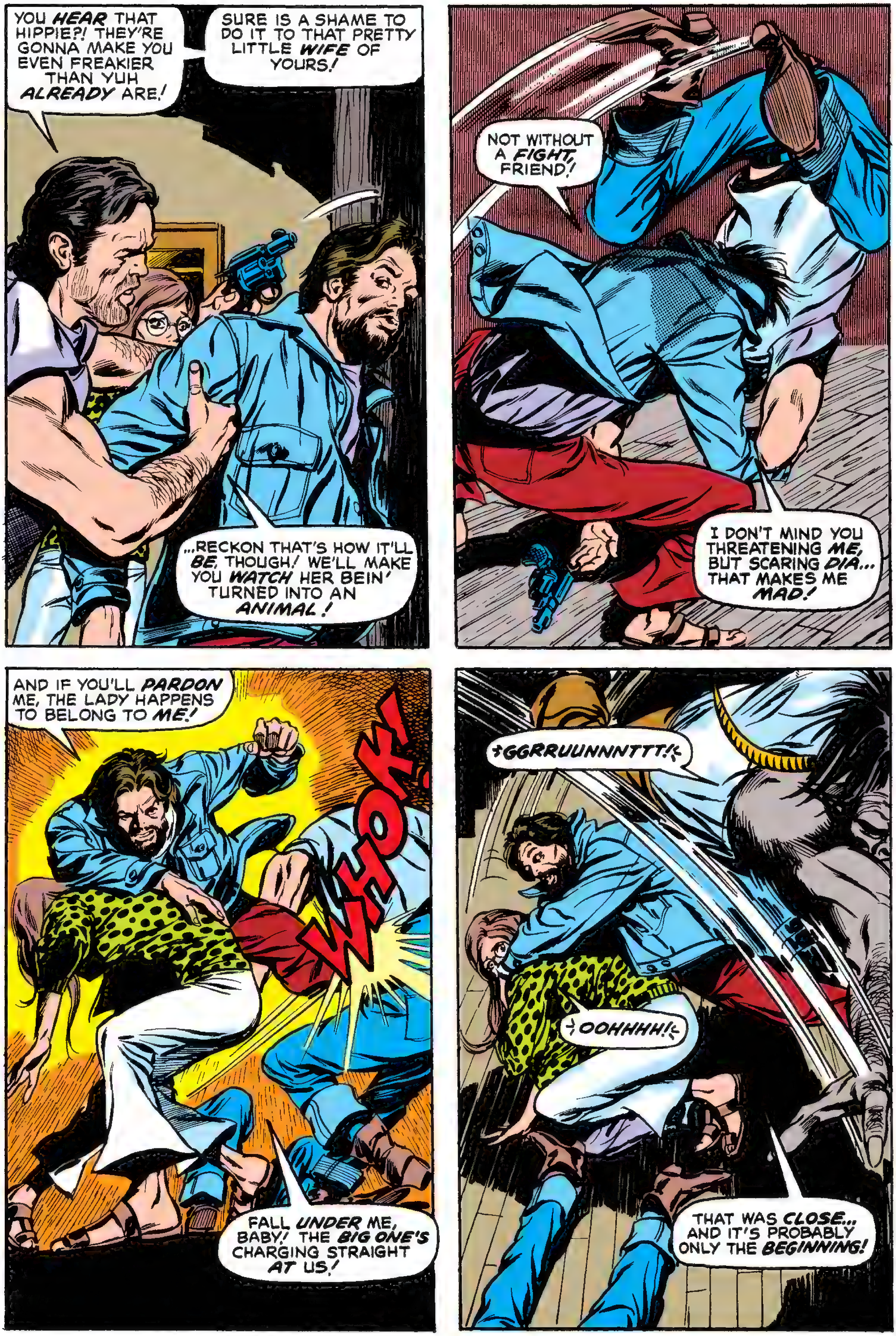
HEAD THIS BUGGY FOR THE **PROFESSOR'S PLACE...**
...AND DON'T SPARE ANY WEAR AND TEAR ON THE **MILL!**
I GOT A FEELIN' BULL'S GONNA BE MIGHTY GLAD TO **SEE** THESE TWO...
...BEIN'S HOW THEY'RE THE CAUSE'A HIM GETTIN' TURNED INTO A **FREAK!**
GORDONS
BOND
BON
WOO
HEY!
CRAZY **TOURISTS,** COME OUT OF THE **BACKWOODS** AND THINK THEY **OWN** THE TOWN!
TWEEE!
AND NOW, BACK TO **MR. KLINE,** WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM **FOGGY NELSON...**
I SIMPLY CAN'T **UNDERSTAND** IT!
IF ONLY I KNEW WHO THIS R. KLINE **IS**... AND HOW HE **FOUND OUT** ABOUT ME!
BUT ALL I CAN GET FROM HIS PHONE CALLS IS, "**COME UP WITH THE MONEY OR ELSE...**"
AND IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE MY ONLY CHOICE IS TO **PLAY BALL** WITH HIM!
ONLY TROUBLE IS, MY WALLET'S IN THE **MINORS** WHILE HIS DEMANDS ARE STRICTLY **MAJOR LEAGUE!**
AH, THAT'S IT, NELSON... MAKE **JOKES** ABOUT IT! THAT'S GOING TO HELP A **LOT!**
GOOD EVENING, BRIDWELL, HAVE A GOOD DAY?!
JUST **FINE,** THANKS, MR. NELSON! YOU HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S **REST!**
HAH! NOTHING TO COMPARE WITH **MINE,** I'LL BET!
I'LL **TRY,** BRIDWELL! GOOD NIGHT!
FAT CHANCE!

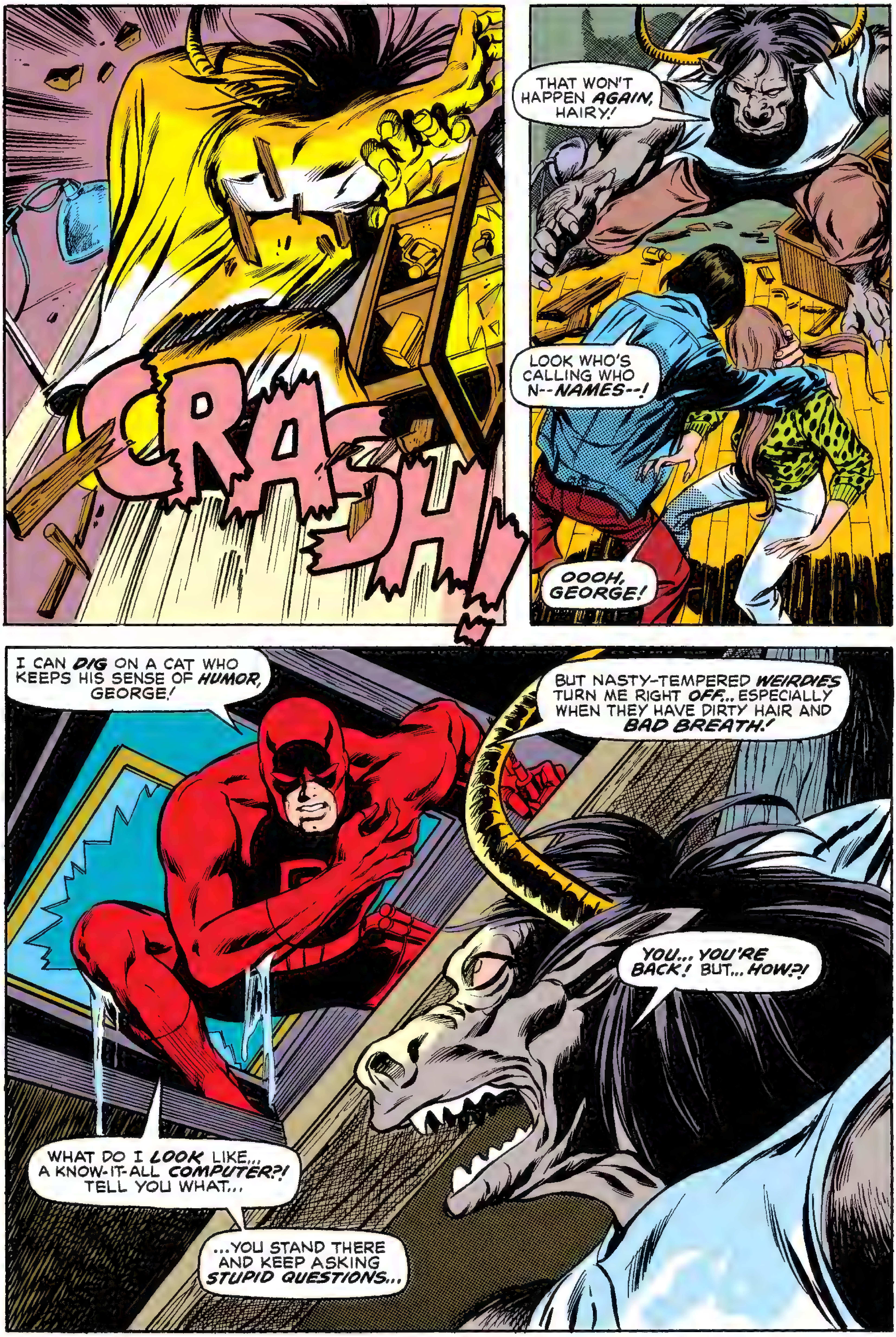

BUT MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I *SHOULD* DO... TAKE A *SLEEPING PILL*... TRY TO *REST!*
AND PERHAPS IN THE *MORNING*... AFTER I'VE TALKED TO *MATT!* MAYBE *THEN* I'LL FIND AN ANSWER!
OH, WHO AM I *FOOLING?* WHAT CAN MY *FRIEND* DO?! I GOT MYSELF *INTO* THIS MESS...
... AND I'M GOING TO GET MYSELF *OUT* OF IT!
KAREN!!
OH, FOGGY... YOU DON'T KNOW HOW *GLAD* I AM TO SEE YOU! IT'S BEEN *SO LONG*...
I JUST COULDN'T STAND IT ANOTHER *MINUTE!* I HAD TO *TALK* TO SOMEONE... AND I KNEW IT HAD TO BE *YOU!*
WELL, YOU'RE NOT THE *ONLY ONE* WHO'S FELT THAT WAY LATELY!
OH... I'VE BEEN SUCH A *FOOL*, RUNNING AWAY LIKE I DID...
... AND REFUSING TO SEE THINGS *HIS WAY!*
WHOA, LADY! YOU'RE NOT MAKING MUCH *SENSE*... AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN *L.A.!*
I *WAS*... BUT I COULDN'T *BEAR* IT ANY MORE!

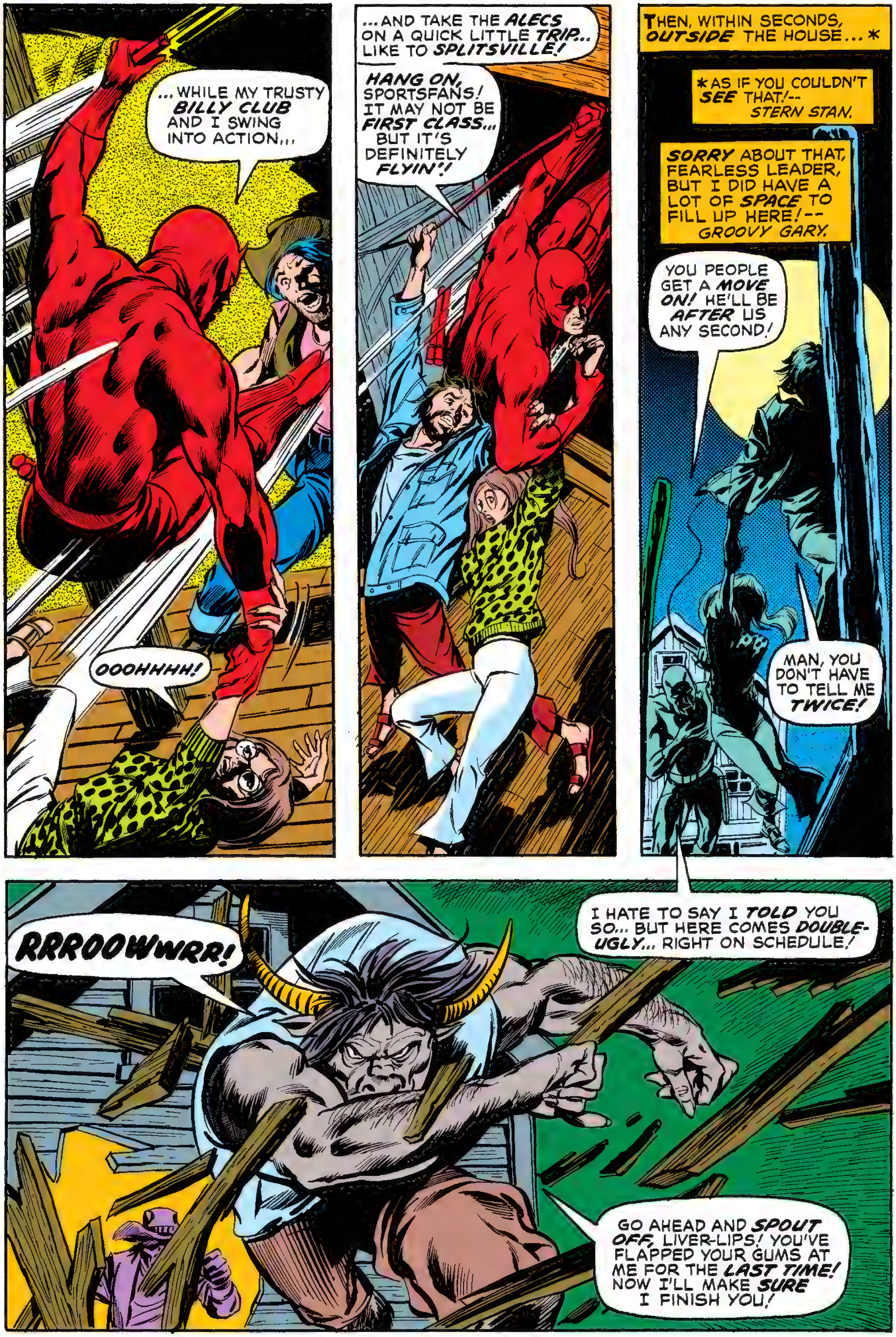

I WAITED *TOO LONG,* FOGGY... AND NOW I'VE LOST HIM *FOREVER!*
SO *THAT'S* IT! TROUBLE WITH OUR NUMBER-ONE RED-HAIRED *LEGAL EAGLE,* HUH?!
WORSE THAN TROUBLE, FOGGY! WHILE I'VE BEEN AWAY... HE'S FOUND *SOMEONE ELSE!*
BUT NOW, BEFORE THE WORLD TURNS ITS WAY RIGHT OF *ORBIT,* A BRIEF *INTERLUDE* FOR A LITTLE *ACTION...*
RRING
YOU AGAIN!!
LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE ME *ALONE?!*
THAT WOULD HARDLY BE VERY *PROFITABLE* FOR ME, MR. NELSON! COME NOW, YOU'RE AN *INTELLIGENT MAN...*
...SO WHY DON'T YOU DO AS I'VE *ASKED?* I WARN YOU, MY PATIENCE IS WEARING *THIN!*
BUT I'VE *TOLD* YOU... THERE'S NO WAY I CAN *RAISE* THAT KIND OF MONEY! IT JUST ISN'T *POSSIBLE!*
WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH HIM?! I'VE NEVER *SEEN* HIM SO UPSET? AND WHAT'S THAT ABOUT *MONEY?!* IT SOUNDS LIKE... *BLACKMAIL!*

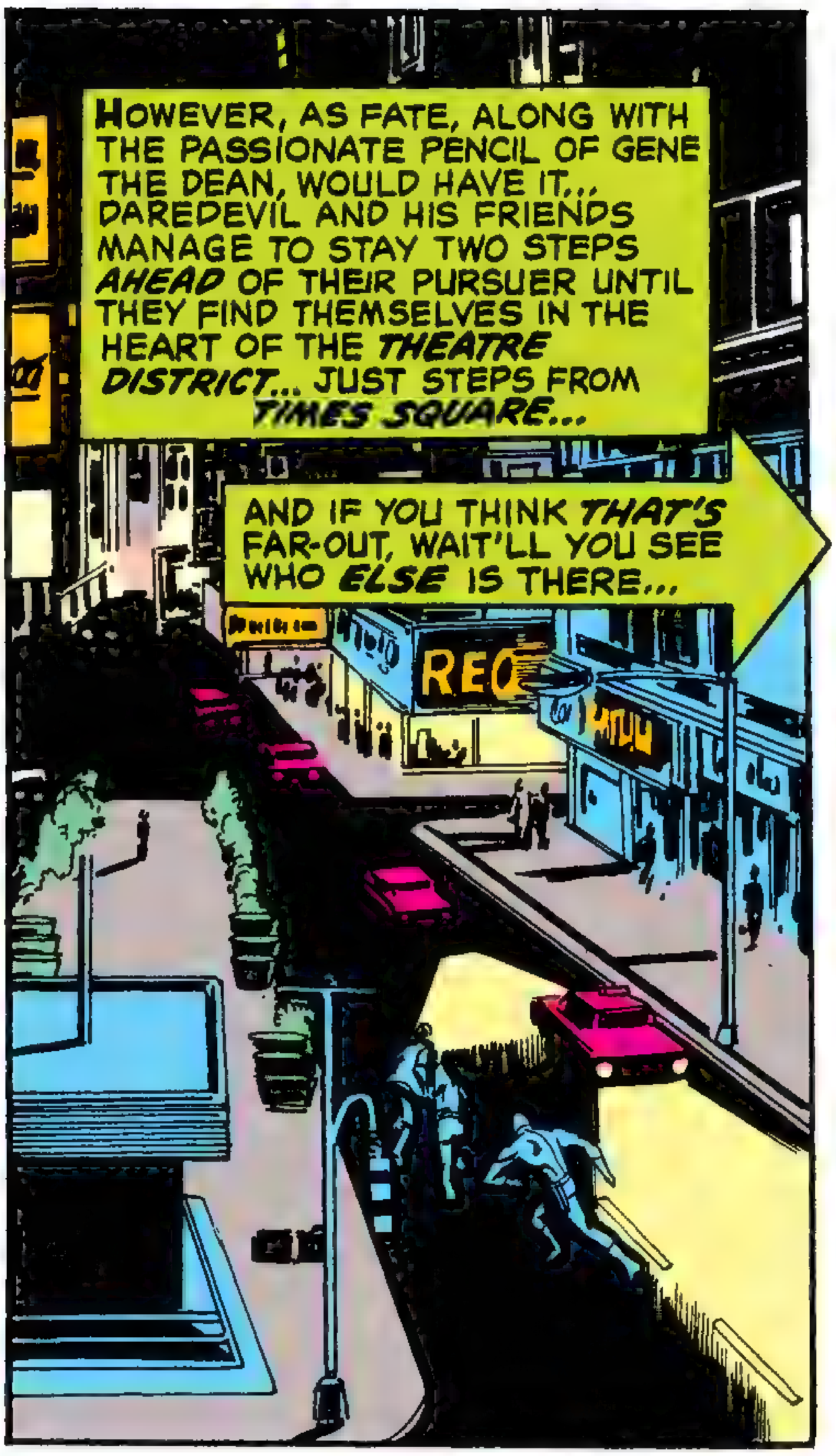

IT'S NO USE! HE WON'T LISTEN TO REASON!
WHAT IS IT, FOGGY?! ARE YOU IN SOME KIND OF... TROUBLE?!
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT, CONSIDERING MY WHOLE WORLD'S FALLING ON TOP OF MY FAT HEAD!
NOW YOU AREN'T MAKING MUCH SENSE, BUT IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT...
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING TO TELL! YOU SPEND A LIFETIME BUILDING A CAREER... AND THEN, ALL BECAUSE OF ONE MISTAKE...
ALL RIGHT, BUT IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE HERE! NO MORE COP-OUTS FOR KAREN PAGE!
IT'S ALL FALLING INTO PLACE!
ANOTHER FEW CALLS... AND NELSON WILL BE AT MY MERCY!
NOW, IF ONLY THINGS ARE GOING AS WELL WITH THE PROFESSOR...
GOOD EVENING, PROFESSOR! YOU'RE LOOKING WELL...
...BUT I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR THE POOR CREATURE STANDING BESIDE YOU! WHAT HAPPENED?!
A SLIGHT ERROR, MR. KLINE... BUT NOTHING SERIOUS! THE SPECIMEN IS EVEN STRONGER THAN WE DARED HOPE!
I ASSURE YOU NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO STAND IN HIS WAY!

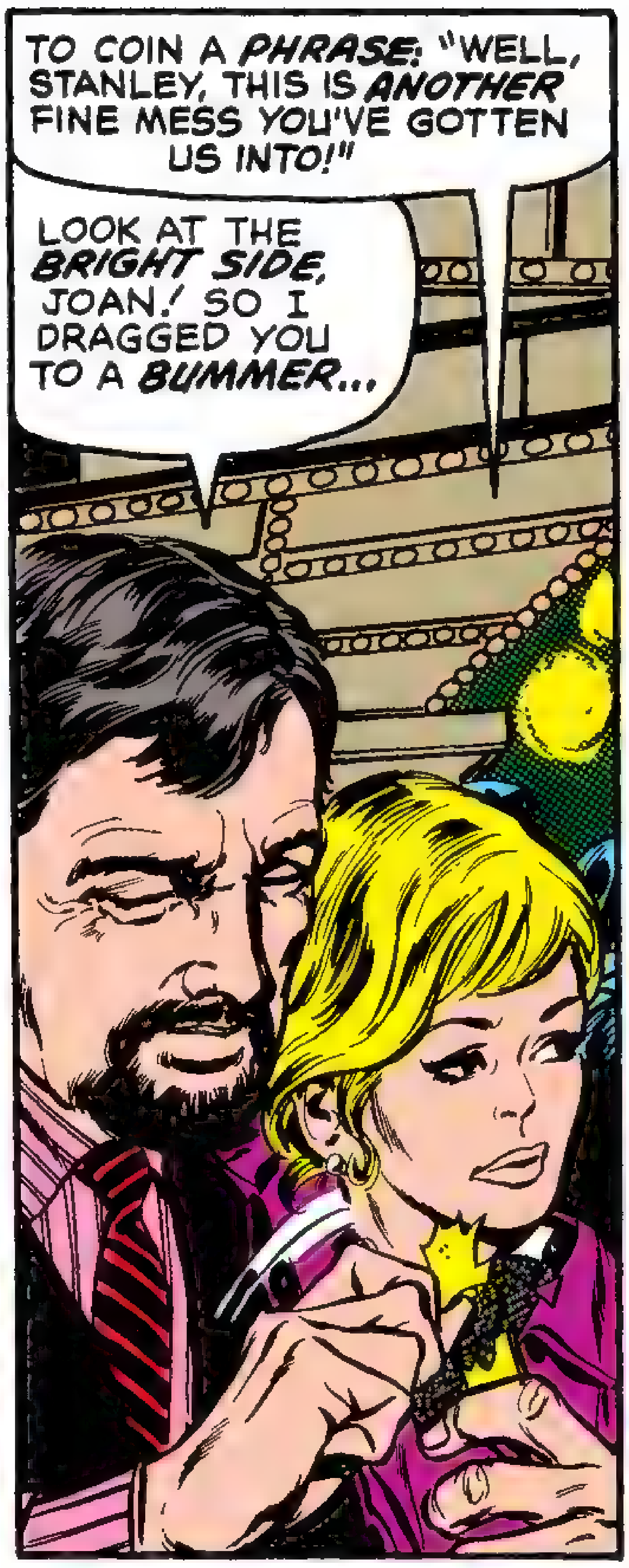

TAKE A GANDER AT WHAT WE BROUGHT YUH, BULL!
ARE THESE THE TWO YOU ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO BRING ME?!
THAT'S THEM, ALL RIGHT... BUT YOU AIN'T GONNA GET TO USE 'EM NOW!
I'M GONNA TAKE CARE'A THEM JUST LIKE I DID THEIR FRIEND IN THE RED UNDERWEAR!
GGRROOWWRR!
RRAK!
BUT WAIT! ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE I'LL LET YOU SHOOT 'EM UP FIRST! YEAH, THEN THEY'LL KNOW HOW IT FEELS!
GET THE HYPOS READY, DOC... AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!
CALM DOWN, AND I WILL!

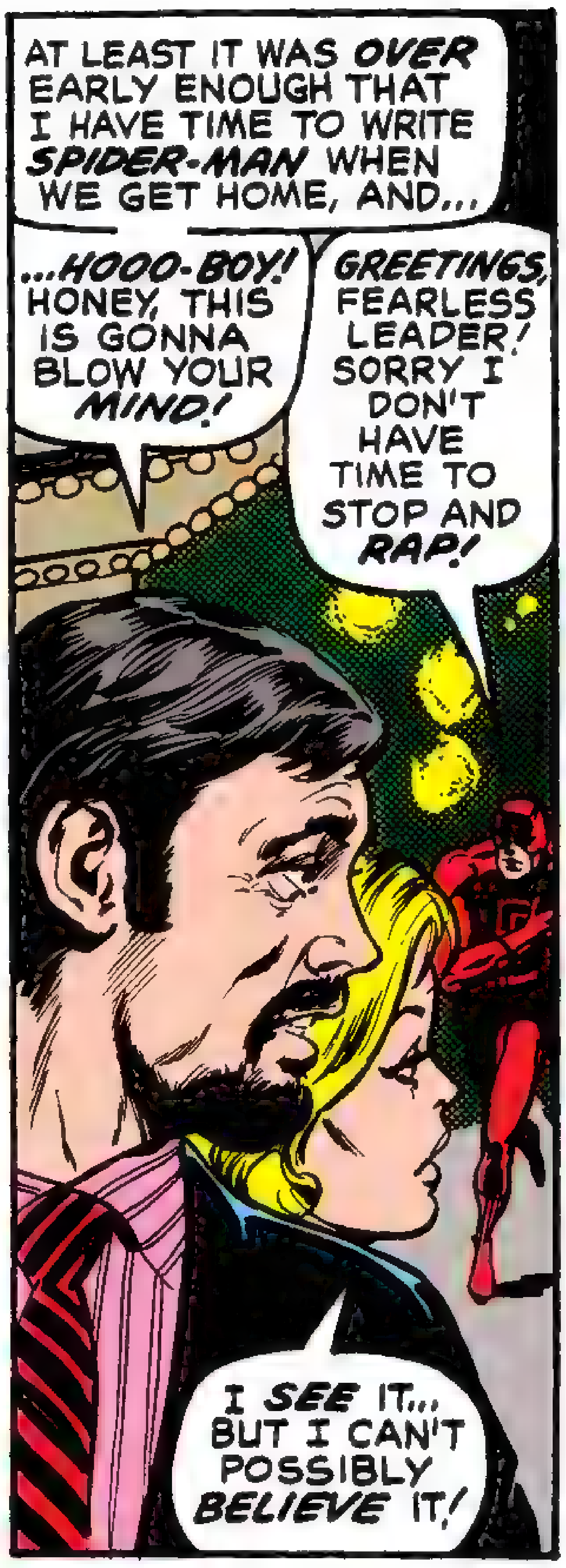

YOU HEAR THAT HIPPIE?! THEY'RE GONNA MAKE YOU EVEN FREAKIER THAN YUH ALREADY ARE!
SURE IS A SHAME TO DO IT TO THAT PRETTY LITTLE WIFE OF YOURS!
...RECKON THAT'S HOW IT'LL BE, THOUGH! WE'LL MAKE YOU WATCH HER BEIN' TURNED INTO AN ANIMAL!
NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT, FRIEND!
I DON'T MIND YOU THREATENING ME, BUT SCARING DIA... THAT MAKES ME MAD!
AND IF YOU'LL PARDON ME, THE LADY HAPPENS TO BELONG TO ME!
WHOK!
FALL UNDER ME, BABY! THE BIG ONE'S CHARGING STRAIGHT AT US!
GGRRUUNNNTTT!
OOHHHH!
THAT WAS CLOSE... AND IT'S PROBABLY ONLY THE BEGINNING!

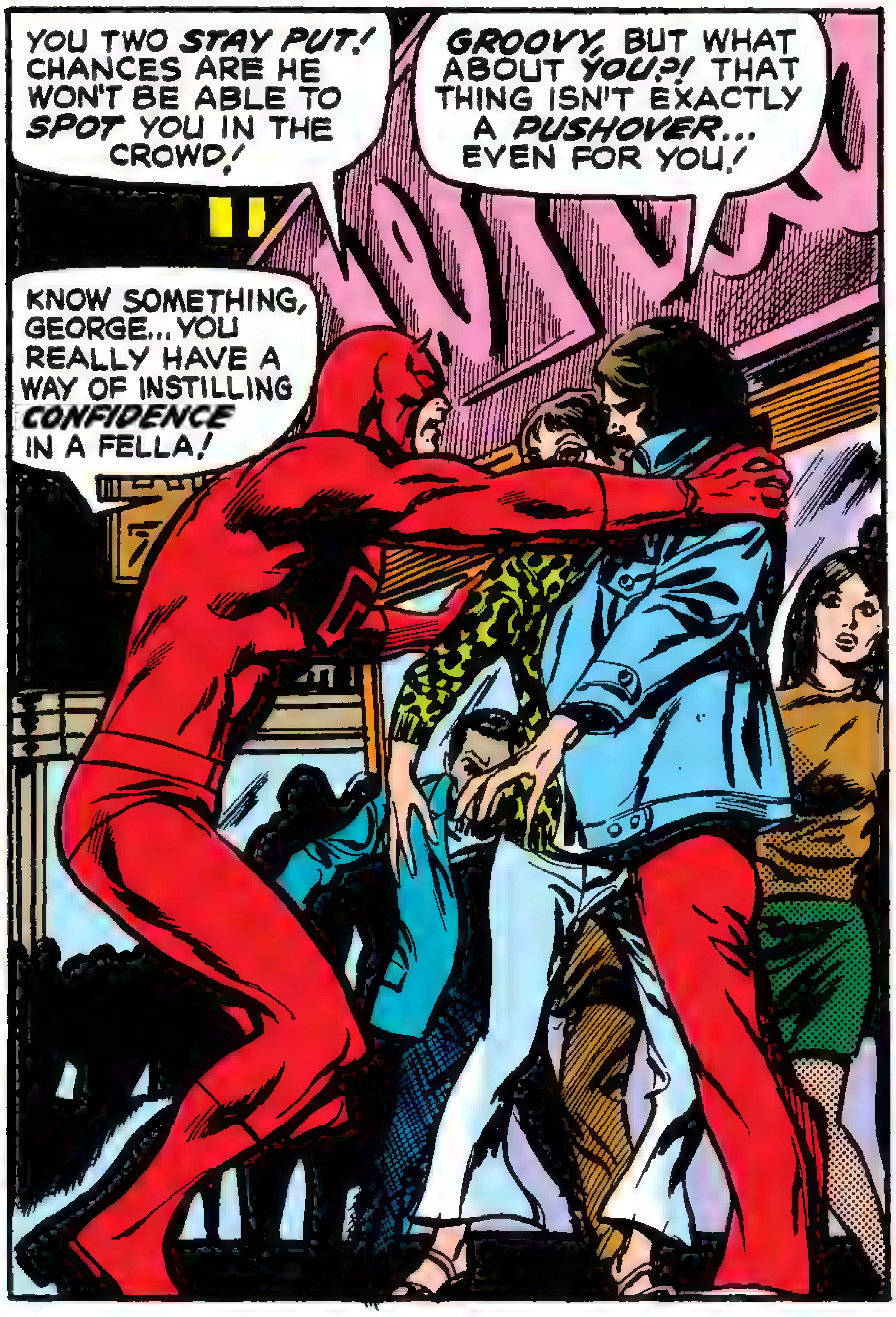

CRASH!
THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, HAIRY!
LOOK WHO'S CALLING WHO N--NAMES--!
OOOH, GEORGE!
I CAN DIG ON A CAT WHO KEEPS HIS SENSE OF HUMOR, GEORGE!
BUT NASTY-TEMPERED WEIRDIES TURN ME RIGHT OFF... ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE DIRTY HAIR AND BAD BREATH!
YOU... YOU'RE BACK! BUT... HOW?!
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE... A KNOW-IT-ALL COMPUTER?! TELL YOU WHAT...
...YOU STAND THERE AND KEEP ASKING STUPID QUESTIONS...

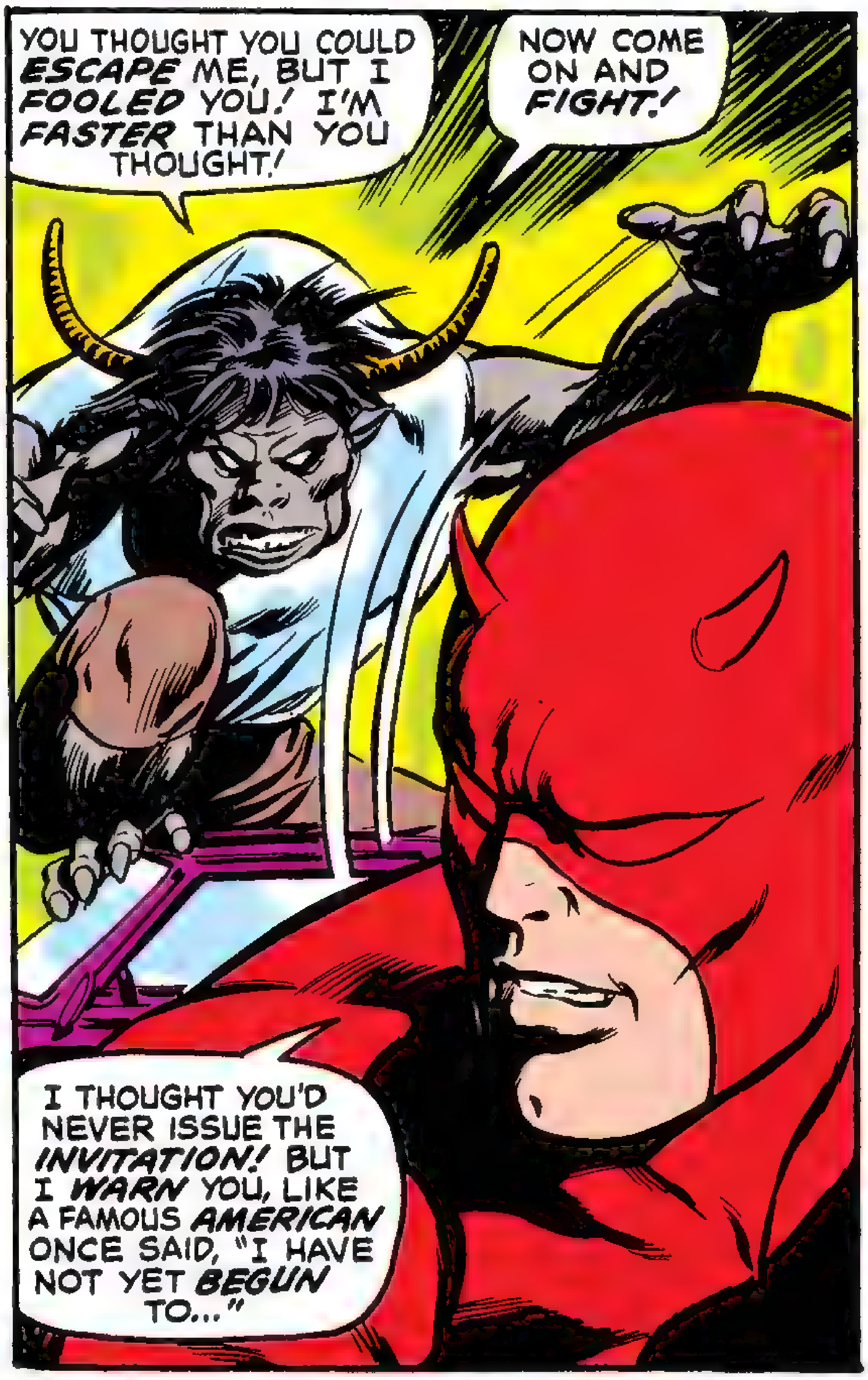

...WHILE MY TRUSTY *BILLY CLUB* AND I SWING INTO ACTION...
OOOHHHH!
...AND TAKE THE *ALECS* ON A QUICK LITTLE *TRIP*... LIKE TO *SPLITSVILLE!*
HANG ON, SPORTSFANS! IT MAY NOT BE *FIRST CLASS*... BUT IT'S DEFINITELY *FLYIN'!*
THEN, WITHIN SECONDS, *OUTSIDE* THE HOUSE...*
*AS IF YOU COULDN'T *SEE* THAT!-- *STERN STAN.*
SORRY ABOUT THAT, FEARLESS LEADER, BUT I DID HAVE A LOT OF *SPACE* TO FILL UP HERE!-- *GROOVY GARY.*
YOU PEOPLE GET A *MOVE ON!* HE'LL BE *AFTER* US ANY SECOND!
MAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME *TWICE!*
I HATE TO SAY I *TOLD* YOU SO... BUT HERE COMES *DOUBLE-UGLY*... RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
RRROOWWRR!
GO AHEAD AND *SPOUT OFF,* LIVER-LIPS! YOU'VE FLAPPED YOUR GUMS AT ME FOR THE *LAST TIME!* NOW I'LL MAKE *SURE* I FINISH YOU!

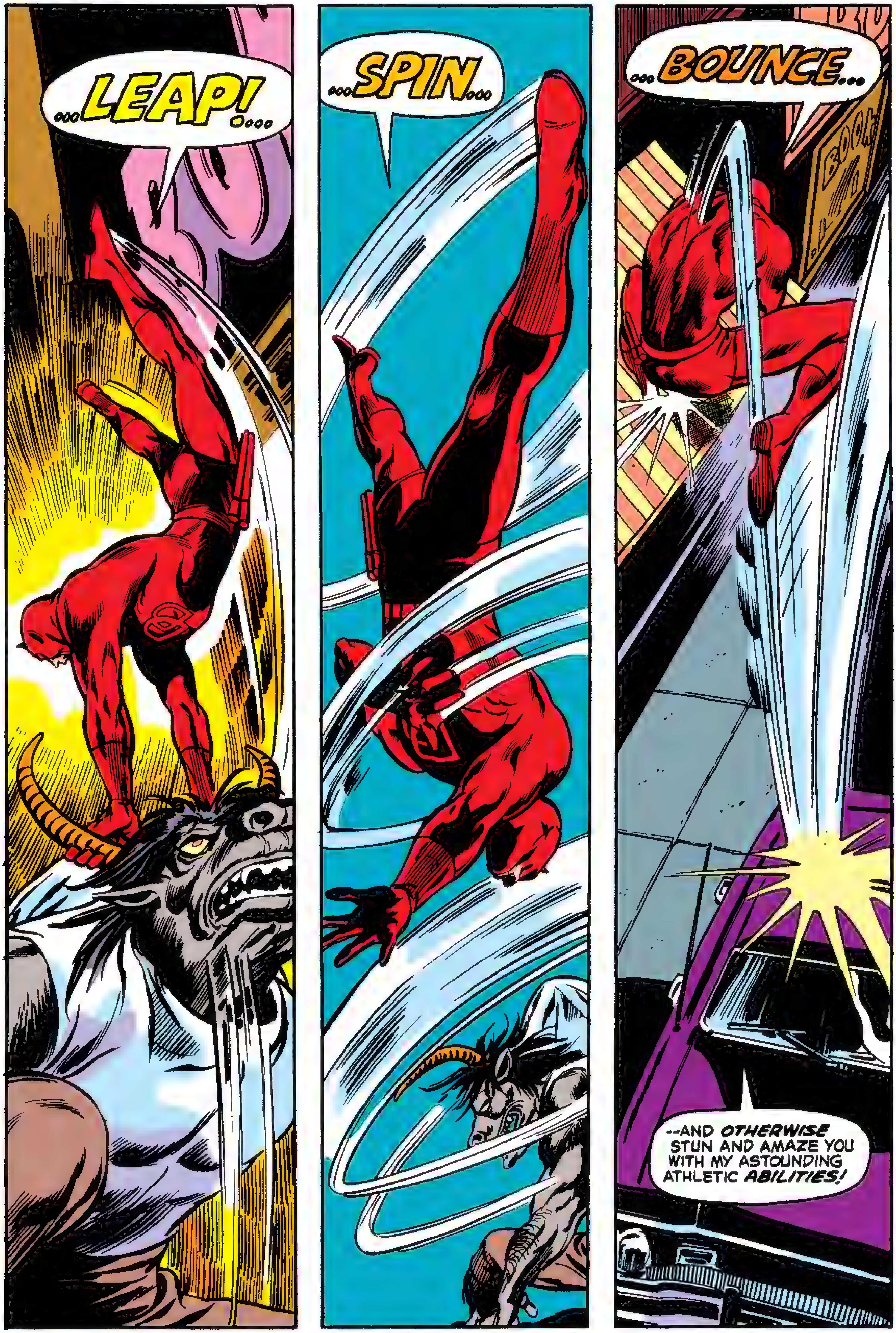

HOWEVER, AS FATE, ALONG WITH THE PASSIONATE PENCIL OF GENE THE DEAN, WOULD HAVE IT... DAREDEVIL AND HIS FRIENDS MANAGE TO STAY TWO STEPS *AHEAD* OF THEIR PURSUER UNTIL THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN THE HEART OF THE *THEATRE DISTRICT*... JUST STEPS FROM *TIMES SQUARE*...
AND IF YOU THINK *THAT'S* FAR-OUT, WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHO *ELSE* IS THERE...
REG

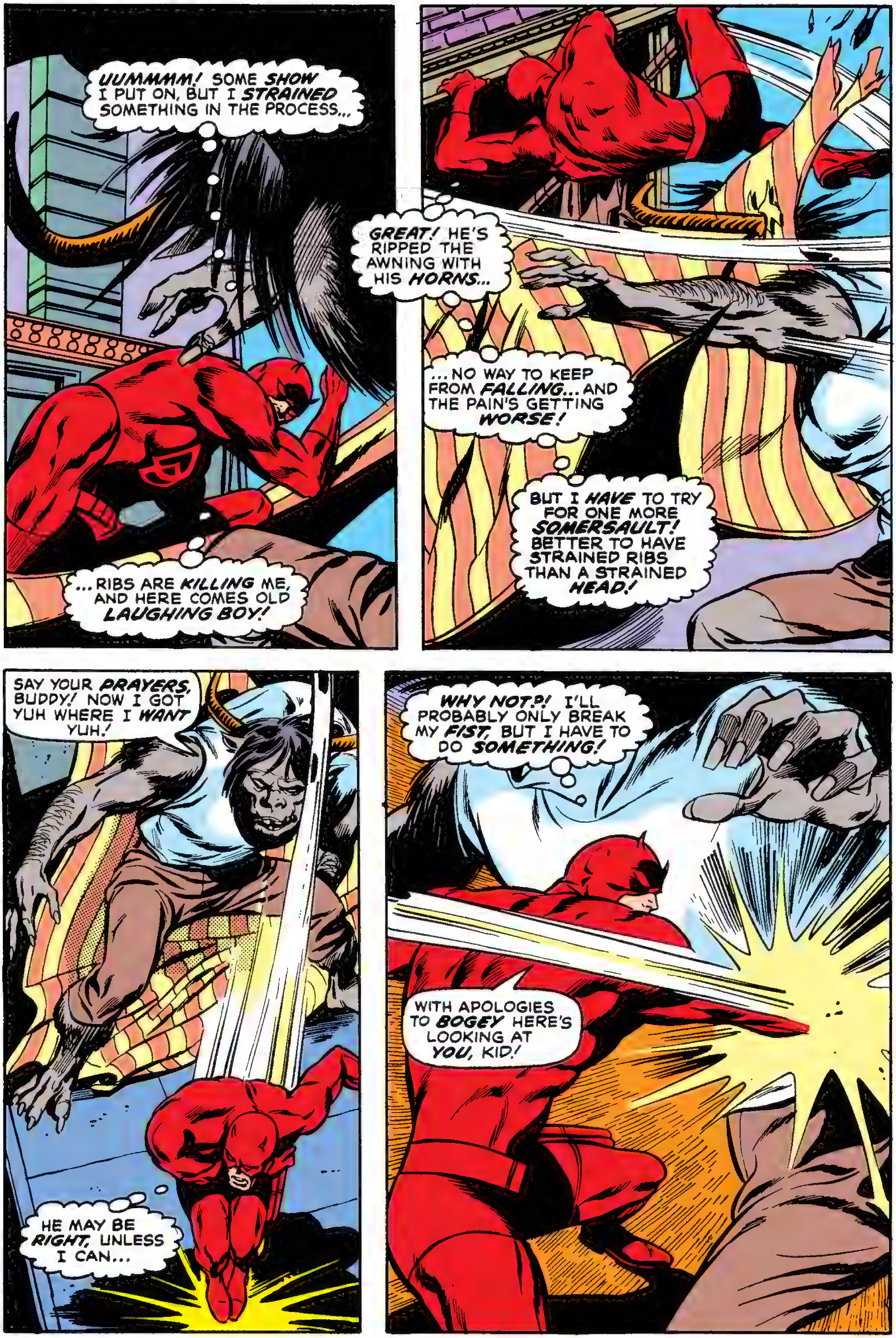

TO COIN A *PHRASE*: "WELL, STANLEY, THIS IS *ANOTHER* FINE MESS YOU'VE GOTTEN US INTO!"
LOOK AT THE *BRIGHT SIDE*, JOAN! SO I DRAGGED YOU TO A *BUMMER*...

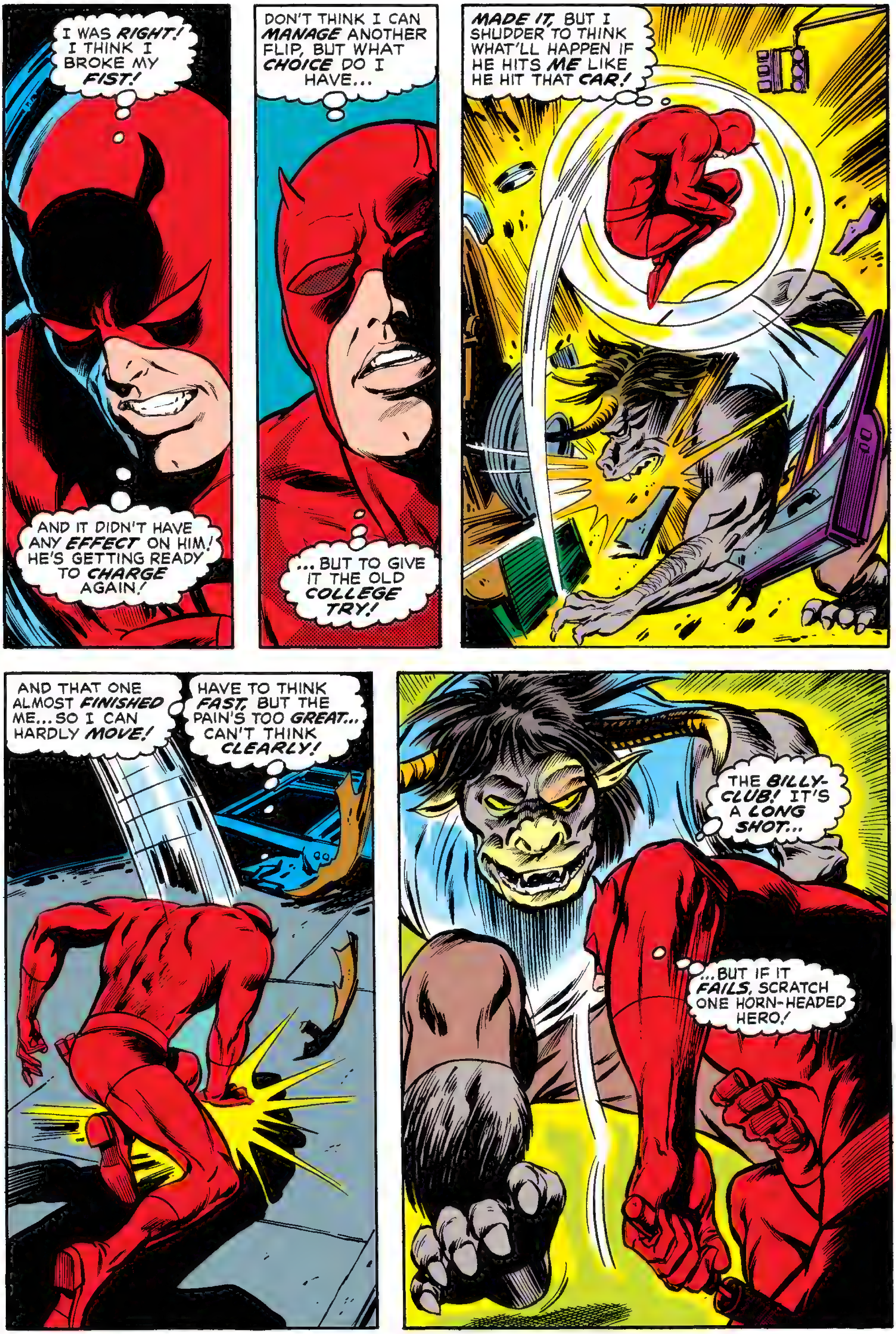

AT LEAST IT WAS *OVER* EARLY ENOUGH THAT I HAVE TIME TO WRITE *SPIDER-MAN* WHEN WE GET HOME, AND...
...*HOOO-BOY!* HONEY, THIS IS GONNA BLOW YOUR *MIND!*
GREETINGS, FEARLESS LEADER! SORRY I DON'T HAVE TIME TO STOP AND *RAP!*
I *SEE* IT... BUT I CAN'T POSSIBLY *BELIEVE* IT!

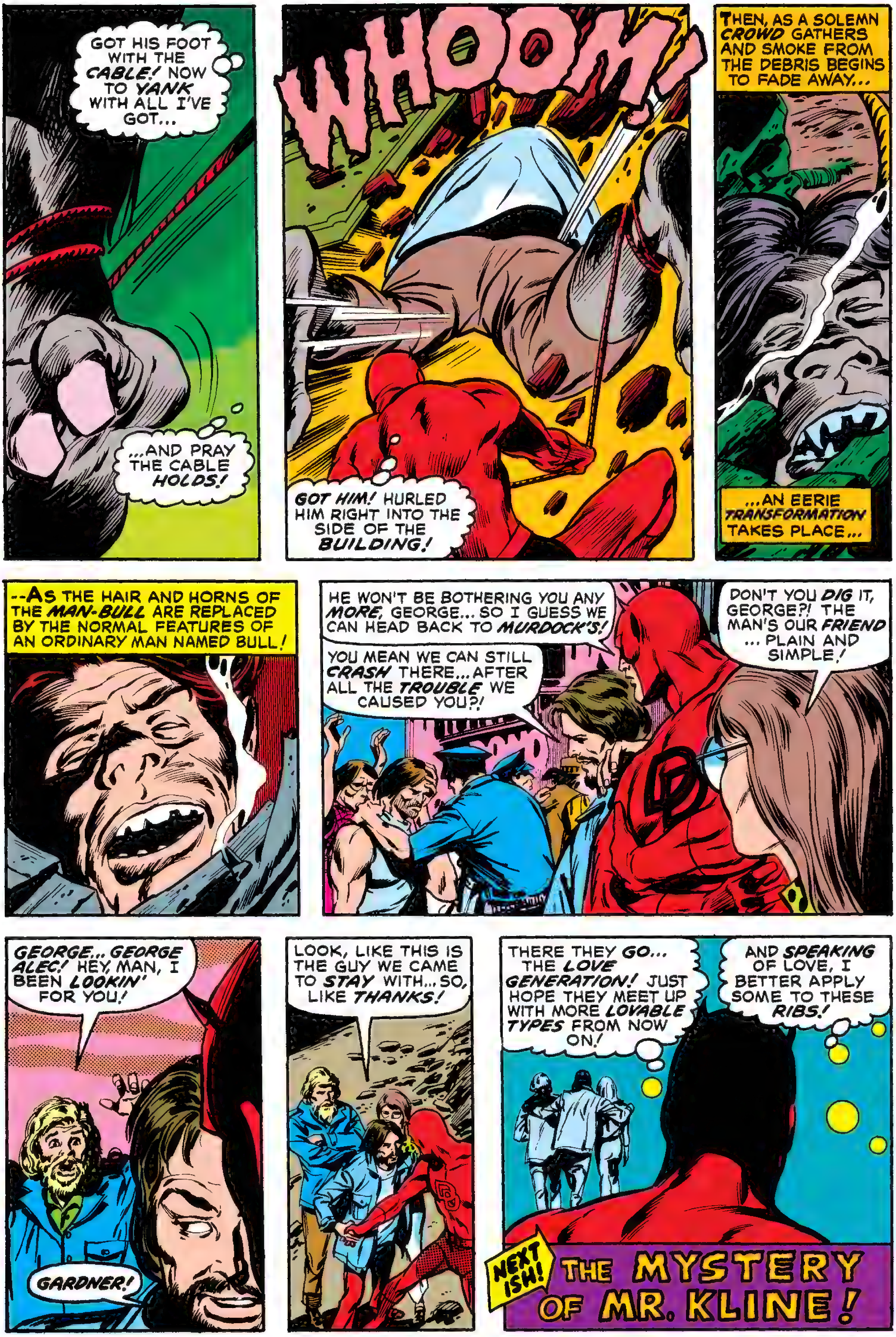

YOU TWO *STAY PUT!* CHANCES ARE HE WON'T BE ABLE TO *SPOT* YOU IN THE CROWD!
GROOVY, BUT WHAT ABOUT *YOU?!* THAT THING ISN'T EXACTLY A *PUSHOVER*... EVEN FOR YOU!
KNOW SOMETHING, GEORGE... YOU REALLY HAVE A WAY OF INSTILLING *CONFIDENCE* IN A FELLA!


YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD *ESCAPE* ME, BUT I *FOOLED* YOU! I'M *FASTER* THAN YOU THOUGHT!
NOW COME ON AND *FIGHT!*
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ISSUE THE *INVITATION!* BUT I *WARN* YOU, LIKE A FAMOUS *AMERICAN* ONCE SAID, "I HAVE NOT YET *BEGUN* TO..."


...LEAP!...
...SPIN...
...BOUNCE...
BOOK
--AND OTHERWISE STUN AND AMAZE YOU WITH MY ASTOUNDING ATHLETIC ABILITIES!

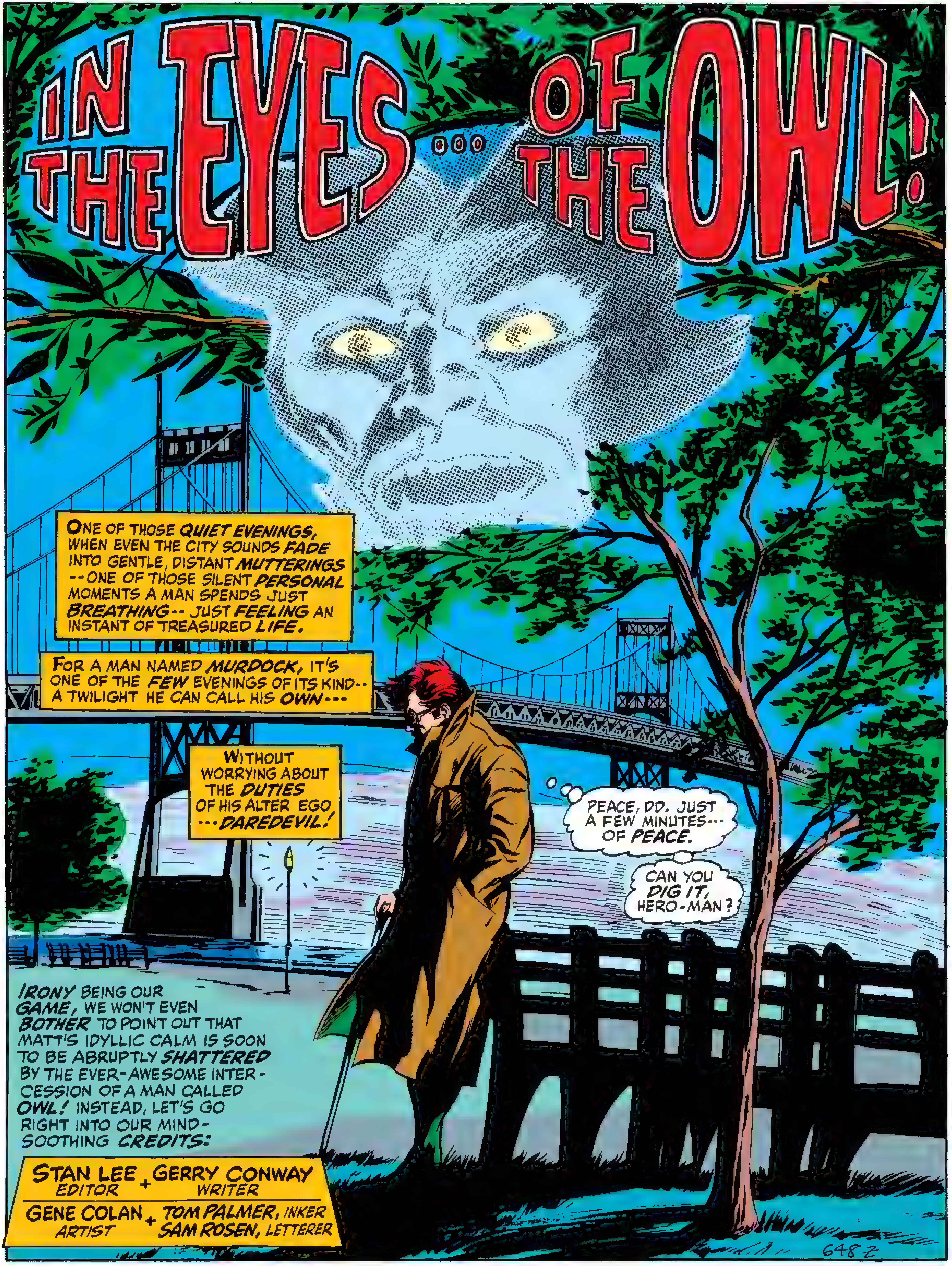

UUMMMM! SOME SHOW I PUT ON, BUT I STRAINED SOMETHING IN THE PROCESS...
...RIBS ARE KILLING ME, AND HERE COMES OLD LAUGHING BOY!
GREAT! HE'S RIPPED THE AWNING WITH HIS HORNS...
...NO WAY TO KEEP FROM FALLING... AND THE PAIN'S GETTING WORSE!
BUT I HAVE TO TRY FOR ONE MORE SOMERSAULT! BETTER TO HAVE STRAINED RIBS THAN A STRAINED HEAD!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, BUDDY! NOW I GOT YUH WHERE I WANT YUH!
HE MAY BE RIGHT, UNLESS I CAN...
WHY NOT?! I'LL PROBABLY ONLY BREAK MY FIST, BUT I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
WITH APOLOGIES TO BOGEY HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID!

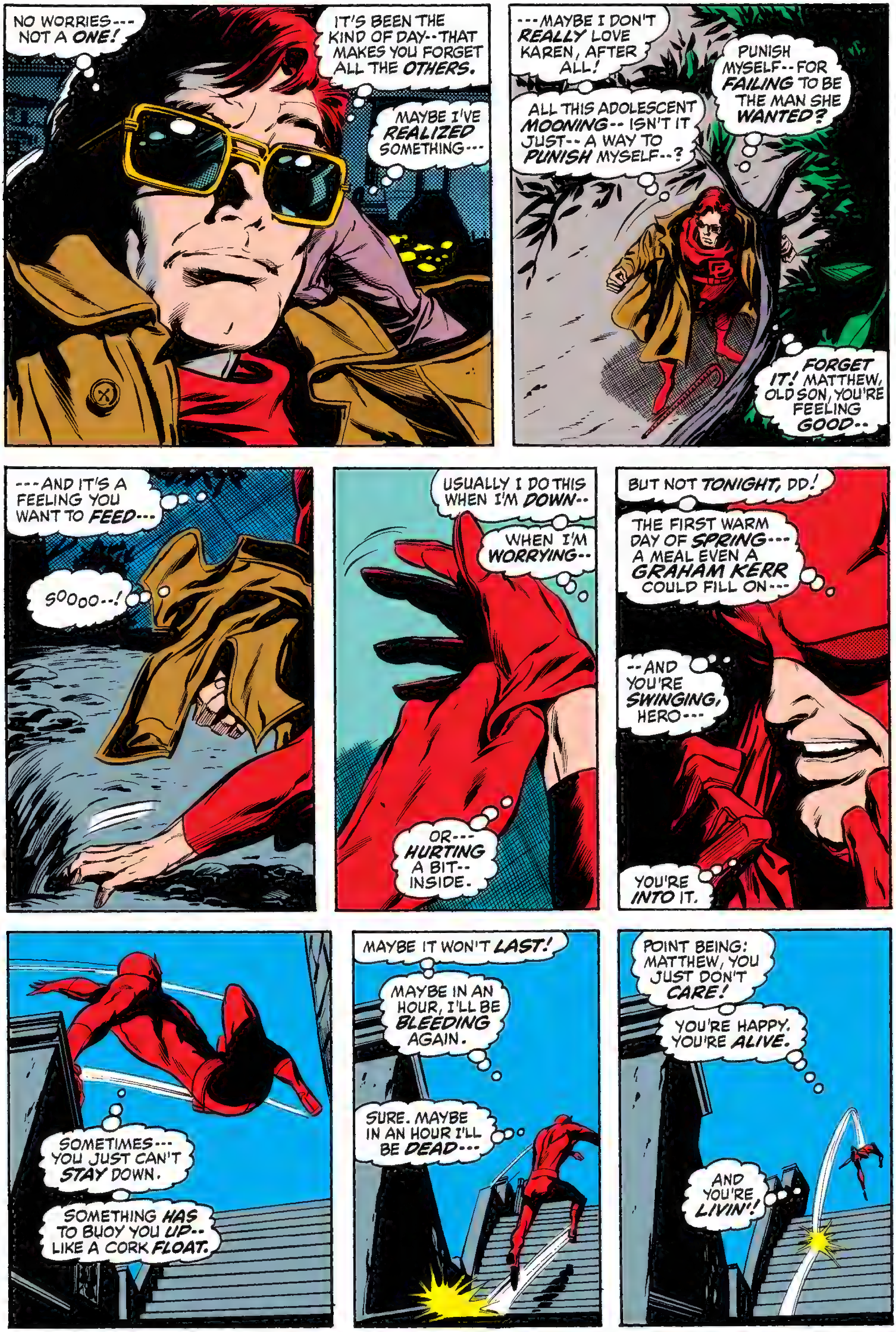

I WAS *RIGHT!* I THINK I BROKE MY *FIST!*
AND IT DIDN'T HAVE ANY *EFFECT* ON HIM! HE'S GETTING READY TO *CHARGE* AGAIN!
DON'T THINK I CAN *MANAGE* ANOTHER FLIP, BUT WHAT *CHOICE* DO I HAVE...
...BUT TO GIVE IT THE OLD *COLLEGE TRY!*
MADE IT, BUT I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE HITS *ME* LIKE HE HIT THAT *CAR!*
AND THAT ONE ALMOST *FINISHED* ME... SO I CAN HARDLY *MOVE!*
HAVE TO THINK *FAST,* BUT THE PAIN'S TOO *GREAT...* CAN'T THINK *CLEARLY!*
THE *BILLY-CLUB!* IT'S A *LONG SHOT...*
...BUT IF IT *FAILS,* SCRATCH ONE HORN-HEADED HERO!

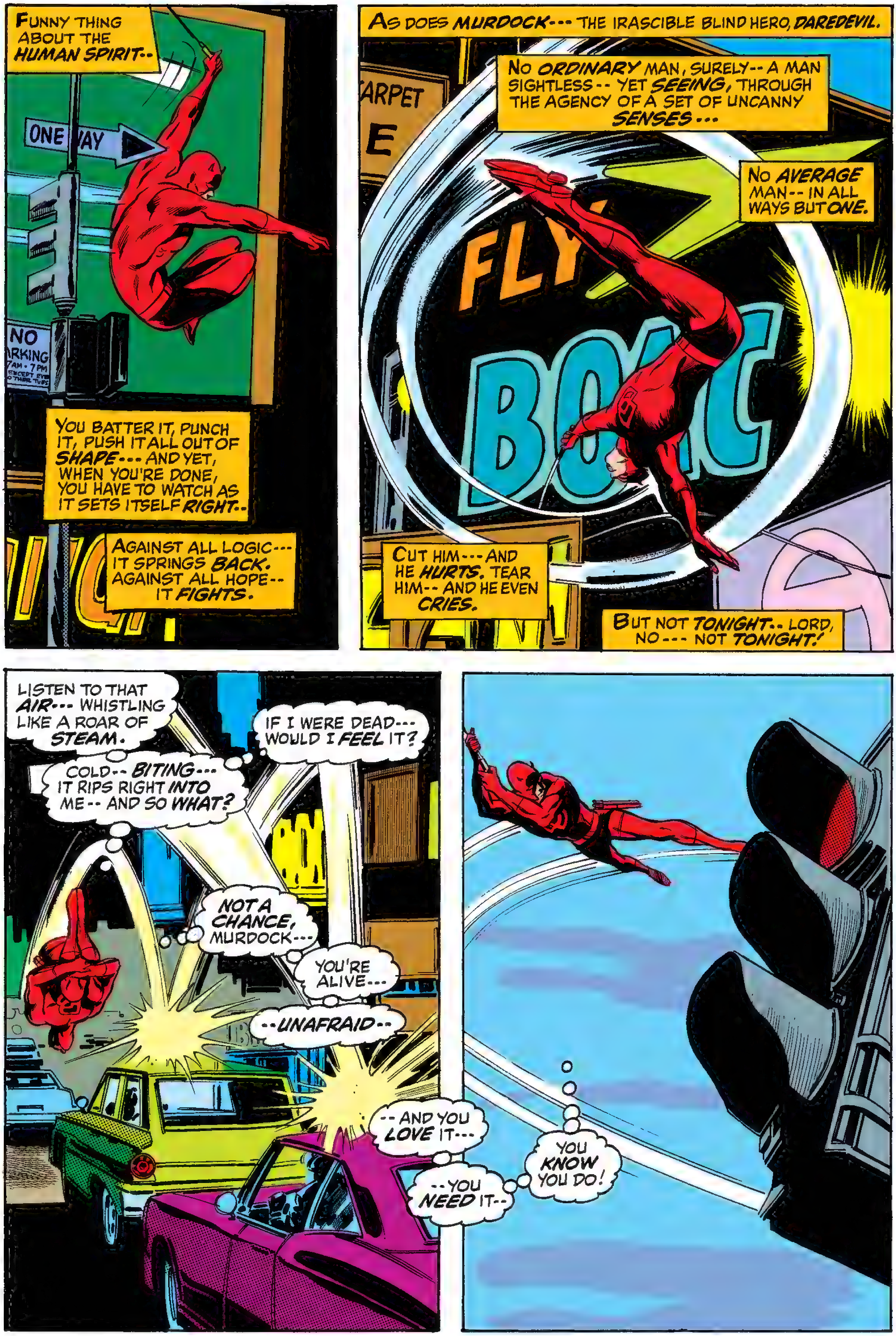

GOT HIS FOOT WITH THE CABLE! NOW TO YANK WITH ALL I'VE GOT...
...AND PRAY THE CABLE HOLDS!
WHOOM!
GOT HIM! HURLED HIM RIGHT INTO THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING!
THEN, AS A SOLEMN CROWD GATHERS AND SMOKE FROM THE DEBRIS BEGINS TO FADE AWAY...
...AN EERIE TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE...
--AS THE HAIR AND HORNS OF THE MAN-BULL ARE REPLACED BY THE NORMAL FEATURES OF AN ORDINARY MAN NAMED BULL!
HE WON'T BE BOTHERING YOU ANY MORE, GEORGE... SO I GUESS WE CAN HEAD BACK TO MURDOCK'S!
YOU MEAN WE CAN STILL CRASH THERE... AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE CAUSED YOU?!
DON'T YOU DIG IT, GEORGE?! THE MAN'S OUR FRIEND ... PLAIN AND SIMPLE!
GEORGE... GEORGE ALEC! HEY, MAN, I BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YOU!
GARDNER!
LOOK, LIKE THIS IS THE GUY WE CAME TO STAY WITH... SO, LIKE THANKS!
THERE THEY GO... THE LOVE GENERATION! JUST HOPE THEY MEET UP WITH MORE LOVABLE TYPES FROM NOW ON!
AND SPEAKING OF LOVE, I BETTER APPLY SOME TO THESE RIBS!
NEXT ISH!
THE MYSTERY OF MR. KLINE!

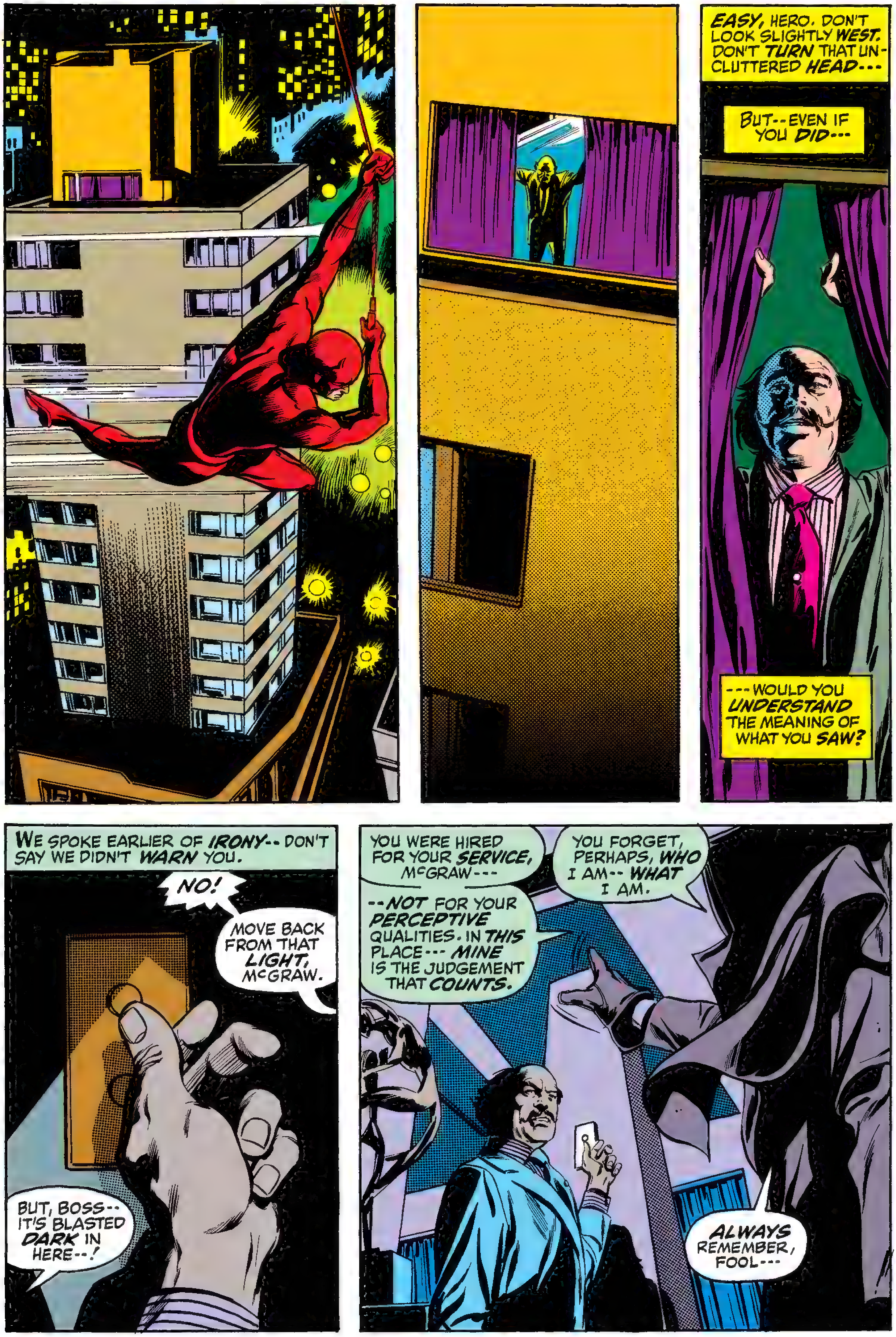
DARE-DEVIL
80
SEPT
02459
STILL 15¢
CC
DAREDEVIL
TM
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BACK BY READER DEMAND! THE OMINOUS OWL!
TM
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

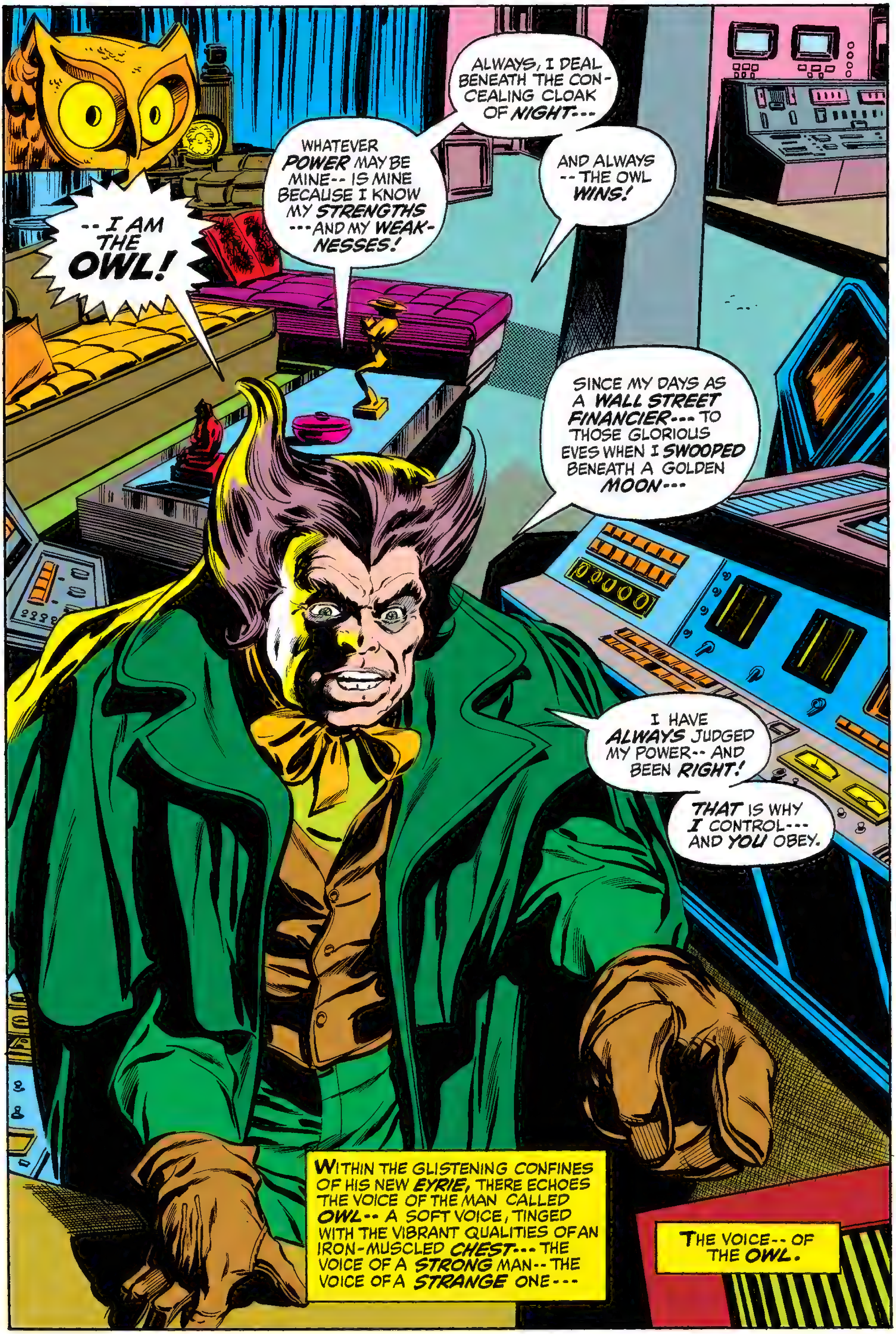
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

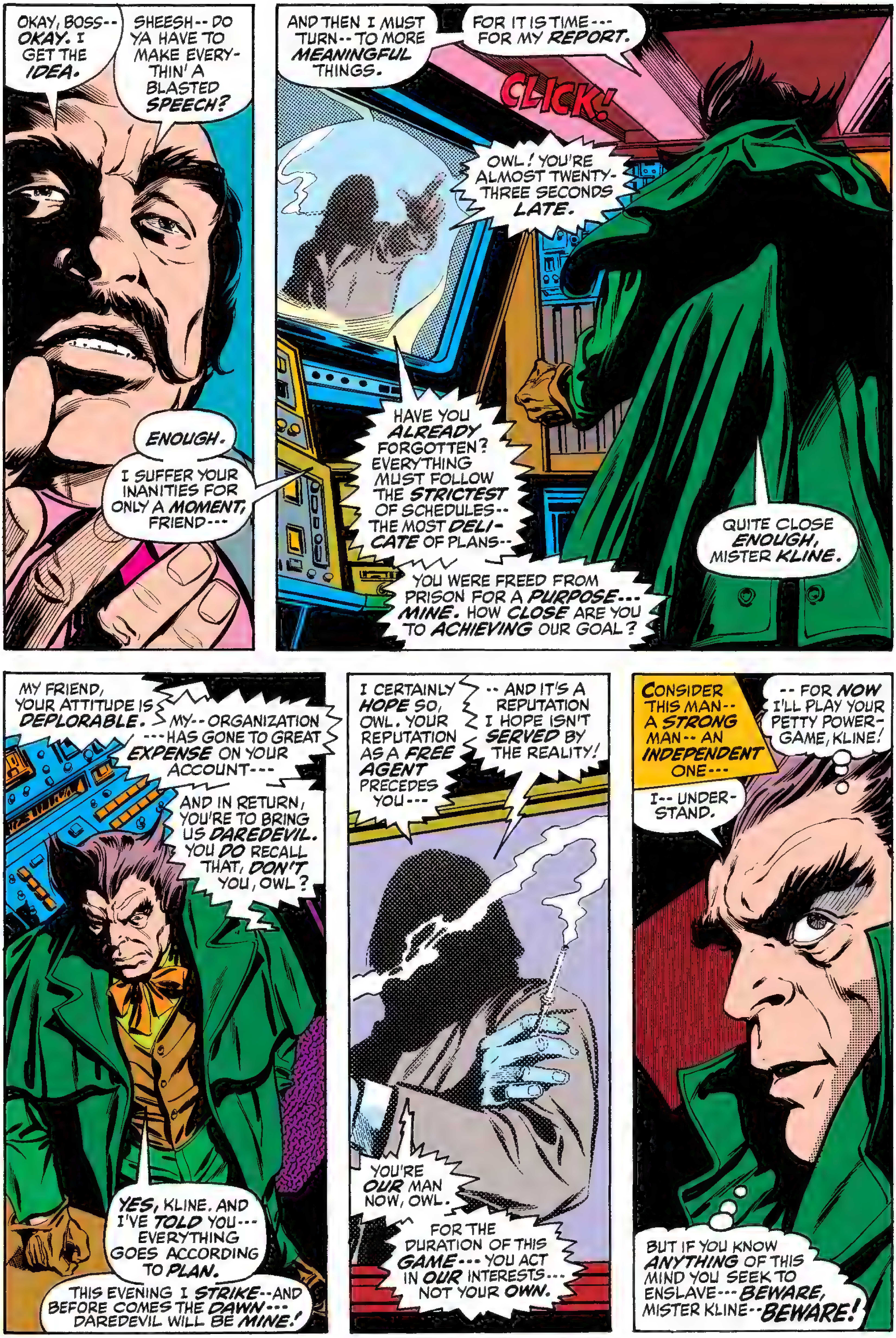

IN THE EYES... OF THE OWL!
ONE OF THOSE QUIET EVENINGS, WHEN EVEN THE CITY SOUNDS FADE INTO GENTLE, DISTANT MUTTERINGS --ONE OF THOSE SILENT PERSONAL MOMENTS A MAN SPENDS JUST BREATHING-- JUST FEELING AN INSTANT OF TREASURED LIFE.
FOR A MAN NAMED MURDOCK, IT'S ONE OF THE FEW EVENINGS OF ITS KIND-- A TWILIGHT HE CAN CALL HIS OWN---
WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE DUTIES OF HIS ALTER EGO ---DAREDEVIL!
PEACE, DD. JUST A FEW MINUTES--- OF PEACE.
CAN YOU DIG IT, HERO-MAN?
IRONY BEING OUR GAME, WE WON'T EVEN BOTHER TO POINT OUT THAT MATT'S IDYLLIC CALM IS SOON TO BE ABRUPTLY SHATTERED BY THE EVER-AWESOME INTERCESSION OF A MAN CALLED OWL! INSTEAD, LET'S GO RIGHT INTO OUR MIND-SOOTHING CREDITS:
STAN LEE, EDITOR + GERRY CONWAY, WRITER
GENE COLAN, ARTIST + TOM PALMER, INKER, SAM ROSEN, LETTERER
648 Z

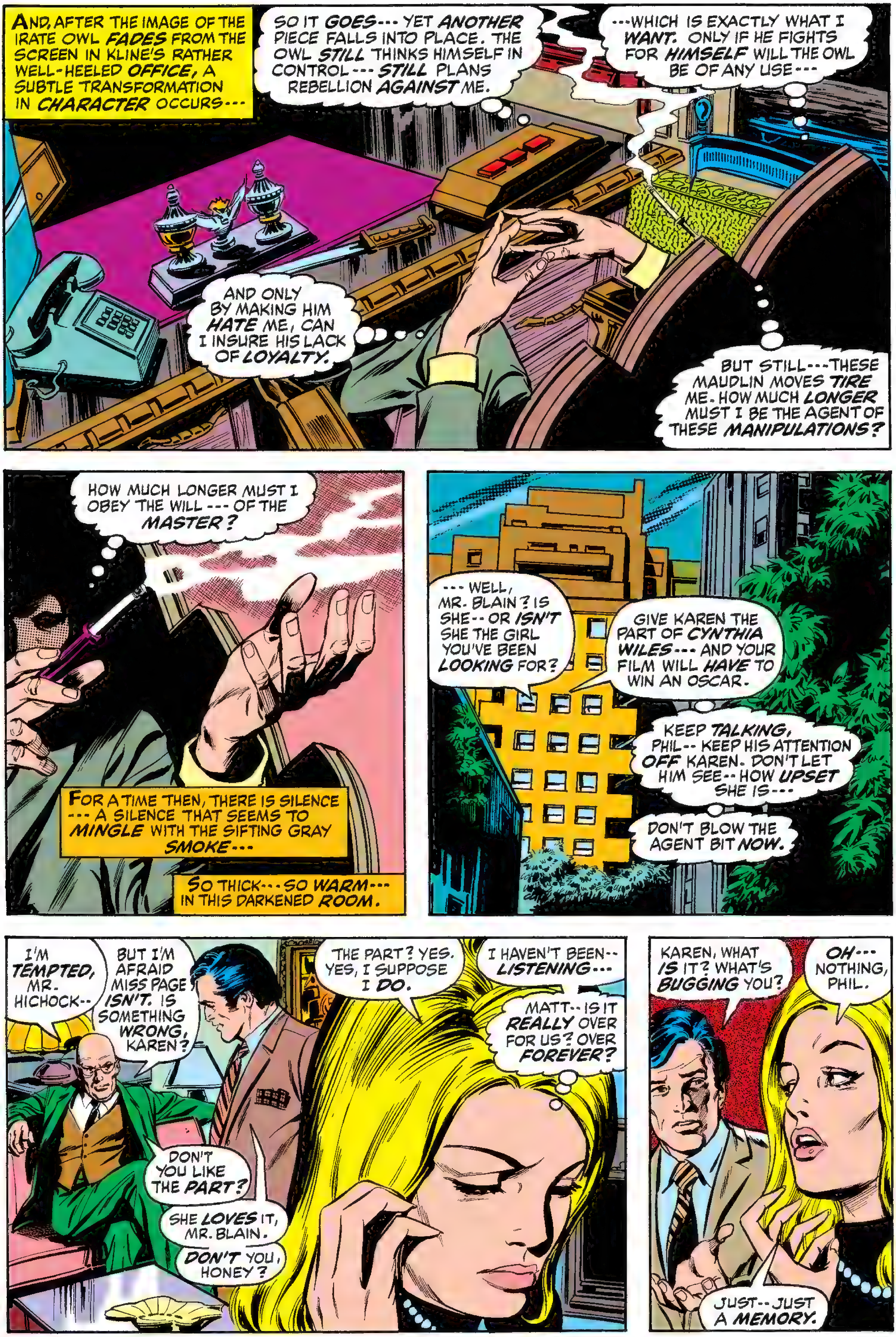

NO WORRIES--- NOT A *ONE!*
IT'S BEEN THE KIND OF DAY--THAT MAKES YOU FORGET ALL THE *OTHERS.*
MAYBE I'VE *REALIZED* SOMETHING---
---MAYBE I DON'T *REALLY* LOVE KAREN, AFTER ALL!
ALL THIS ADOLESCENT *MOONING*-- ISN'T IT JUST-- A WAY TO *PUNISH* MYSELF--?
PUNISH MYSELF--FOR *FAILING* TO BE THE MAN SHE *WANTED?*
FORGET IT! MATTHEW, OLD SON, YOU'RE FEELING *GOOD*--
---AND IT'S A FEELING YOU WANT TO *FEED*---
SOOOO--!
USUALLY I DO THIS WHEN I'M *DOWN*--
WHEN I'M *WORRYING*--
OR--- *HURTING* A BIT-- INSIDE.
BUT NOT *TONIGHT,* DD!
THE FIRST WARM DAY OF *SPRING*--- A MEAL EVEN A *GRAHAM KERR* COULD FILL ON---
--AND YOU'RE *SWINGING,* HERO---
YOU'RE *INTO* IT.
SOMETIMES--- YOU JUST CAN'T *STAY* DOWN.
SOMETHING *HAS* TO BUOY YOU *UP*-- LIKE A CORK *FLOAT.*
MAYBE IT WON'T *LAST!*
MAYBE IN AN HOUR, I'LL BE *BLEEDING* AGAIN.
SURE. MAYBE IN AN HOUR I'LL BE *DEAD*---
POINT BEING: MATTHEW, YOU JUST DON'T *CARE!*
YOU'RE HAPPY. YOU'RE *ALIVE.*
AND YOU'RE *LIVIN'!*

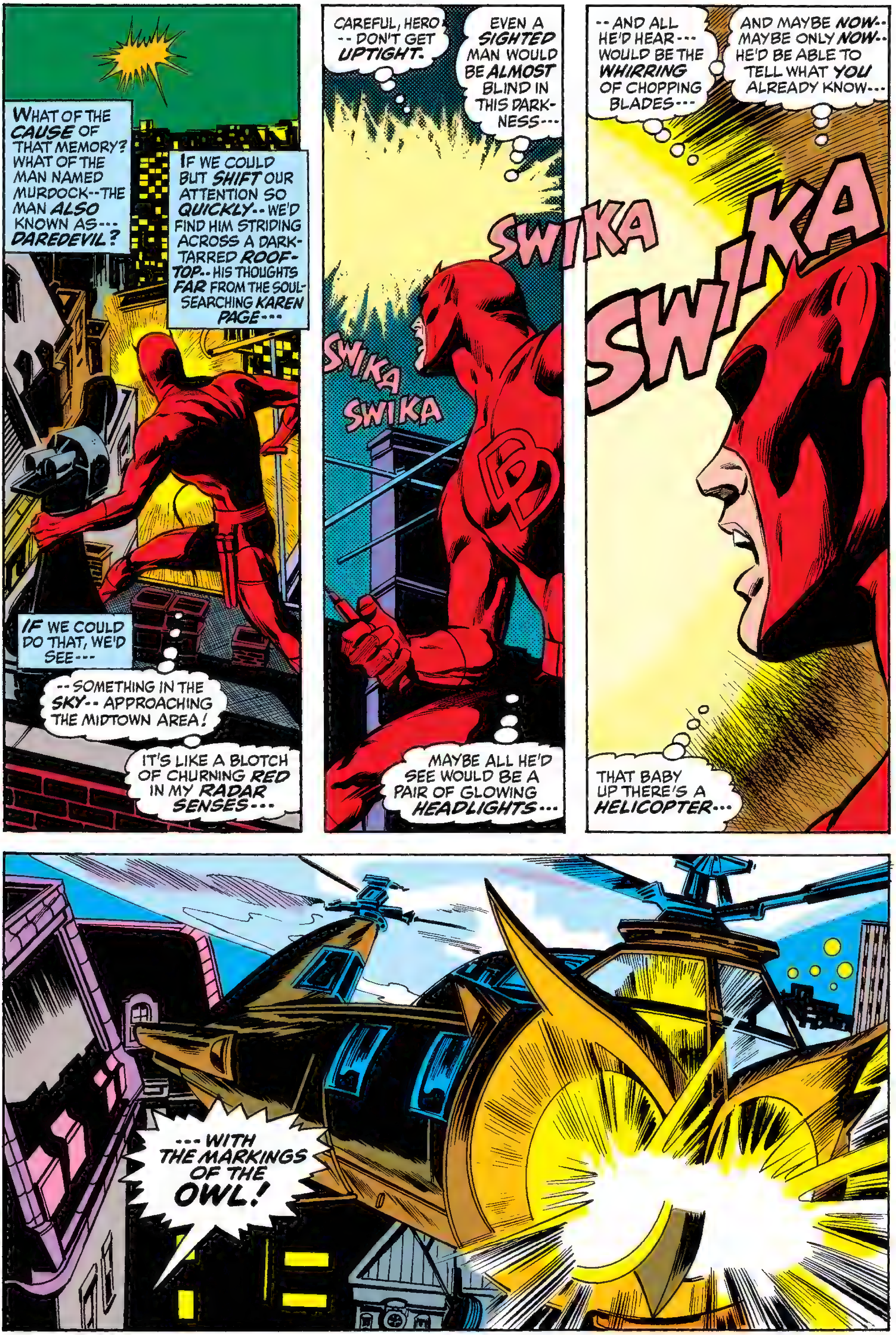

FUNNY THING ABOUT THE HUMAN SPIRIT--
ONE WAY
NO PARKING 7AM-7PM EXCEPT ... THRU TUES
YOU BATTER IT, PUNCH IT, PUSH IT ALL OUT OF SHAPE--- AND YET, WHEN YOU'RE DONE, YOU HAVE TO WATCH AS IT SETS ITSELF RIGHT--
AGAINST ALL LOGIC--- IT SPRINGS BACK. AGAINST ALL HOPE-- IT FIGHTS.
AS DOES MURDOCK--- THE IRASCIBLE BLIND HERO, DAREDEVIL.
NO ORDINARY MAN, SURELY-- A MAN SIGHTLESS-- YET SEEING, THROUGH THE AGENCY OF A SET OF UNCANNY SENSES---
ARPET
E
NO AVERAGE MAN-- IN ALL WAYS BUT ONE.
FLY
BOAC
CUT HIM--- AND HE HURTS. TEAR HIM-- AND HE EVEN CRIES.
BUT NOT TONIGHT-- LORD, NO--- NOT TONIGHT!
LISTEN TO THAT AIR--- WHISTLING LIKE A ROAR OF STEAM.
COLD-- BITING--- IT RIPS RIGHT INTO ME-- AND SO WHAT?
IF I WERE DEAD--- WOULD I FEEL IT?
NOT A CHANCE, MURDOCK---
YOU'RE ALIVE---
--UNAFRAID--
--AND YOU LOVE IT---
--YOU NEED IT--
YOU KNOW YOU DO!

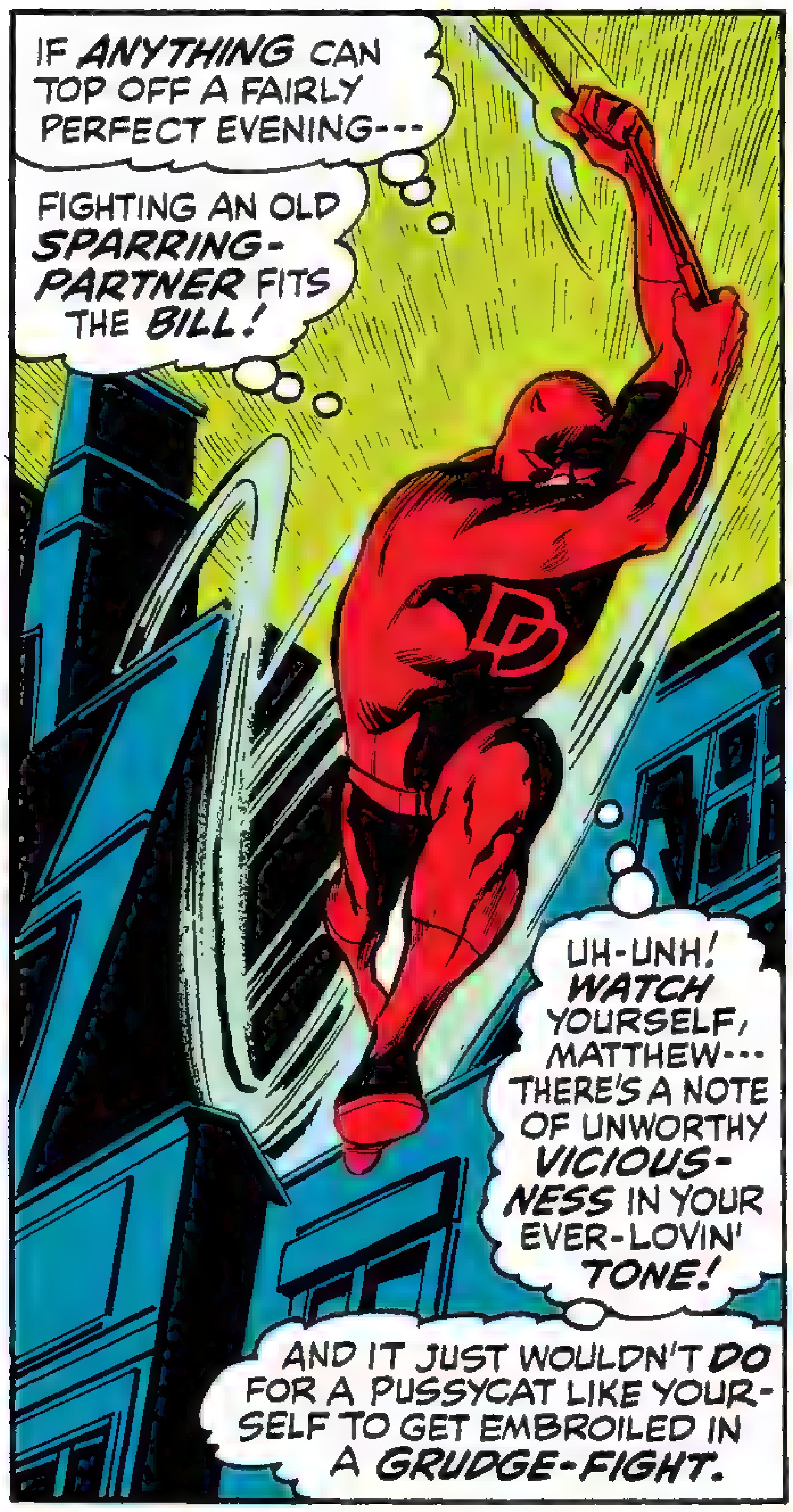

EASY, HERO. DON'T LOOK SLIGHTLY WEST. DON'T TURN THAT UN-CLUTTERED HEAD---
BUT--EVEN IF YOU DID---
---WOULD YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF WHAT YOU SAW?
WE SPOKE EARLIER OF IRONY-- DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU.
NO!
MOVE BACK FROM THAT LIGHT, McGRAW.
BUT, BOSS-- IT'S BLASTED DARK IN HERE--!
YOU WERE HIRED FOR YOUR SERVICE, McGRAW---
--NOT FOR YOUR PERCEPTIVE QUALITIES. IN THIS PLACE--- MINE IS THE JUDGEMENT THAT COUNTS.
YOU FORGET, PERHAPS, WHO I AM-- WHAT I AM.
ALWAYS REMEMBER, FOOL---

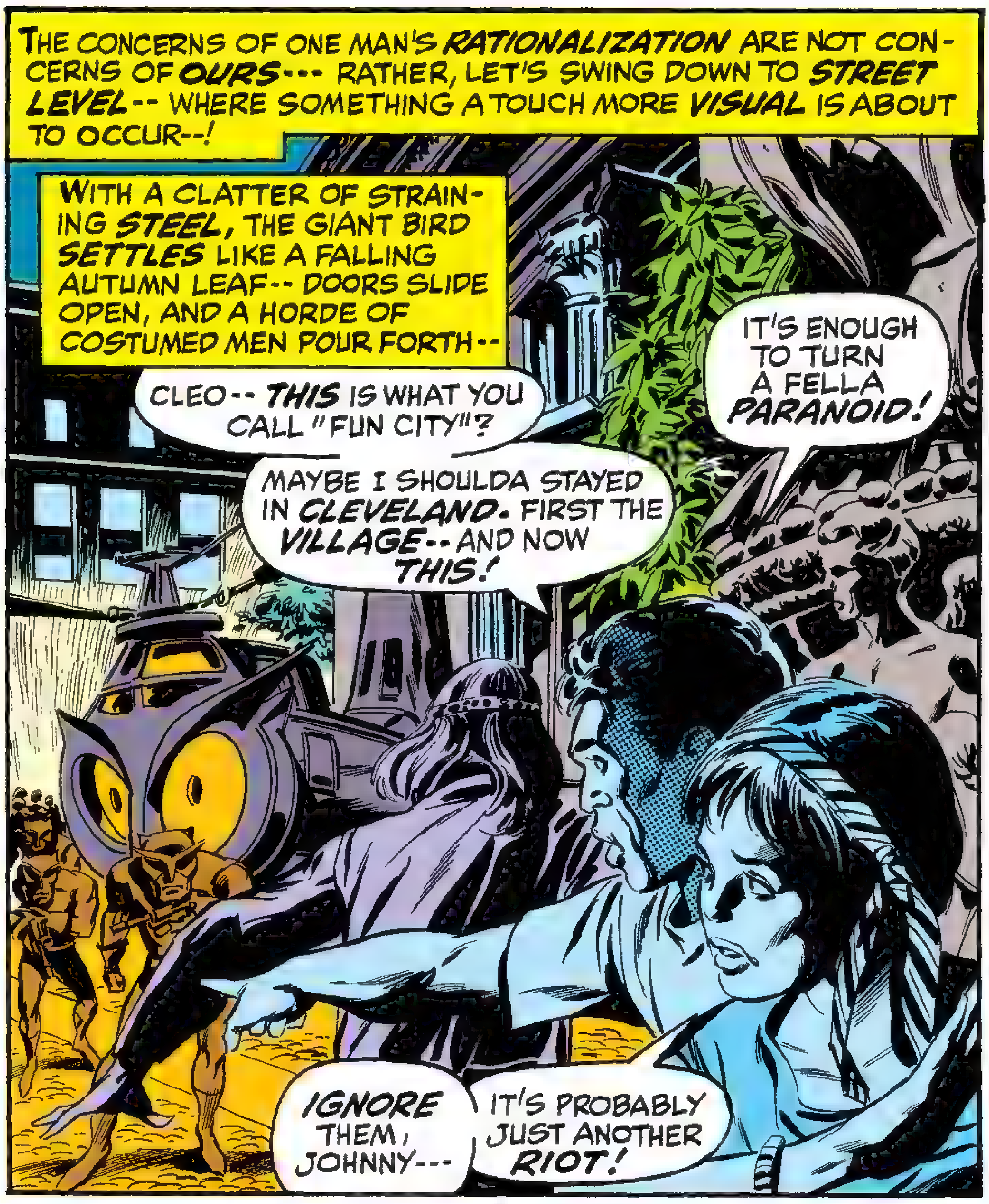

--I AM THE OWL!
WHATEVER POWER MAY BE MINE-- IS MINE BECAUSE I KNOW MY STRENGTHS ---AND MY WEAKNESSES!
ALWAYS, I DEAL BENEATH THE CONCEALING CLOAK OF NIGHT---
AND ALWAYS --THE OWL WINS!
SINCE MY DAYS AS A WALL STREET FINANCIER--- TO THOSE GLORIOUS EVES WHEN I SWOOPED BENEATH A GOLDEN MOON---
I HAVE ALWAYS JUDGED MY POWER-- AND BEEN RIGHT!
THAT IS WHY I CONTROL--- AND YOU OBEY.
WITHIN THE GLISTENING CONFINES OF HIS NEW EYRIE, THERE ECHOES THE VOICE OF THE MAN CALLED OWL-- A SOFT VOICE, TINGED WITH THE VIBRANT QUALITIES OF AN IRON-MUSCLED CHEST--- THE VOICE OF A STRONG MAN-- THE VOICE OF A STRANGE ONE---
THE VOICE-- OF THE OWL.

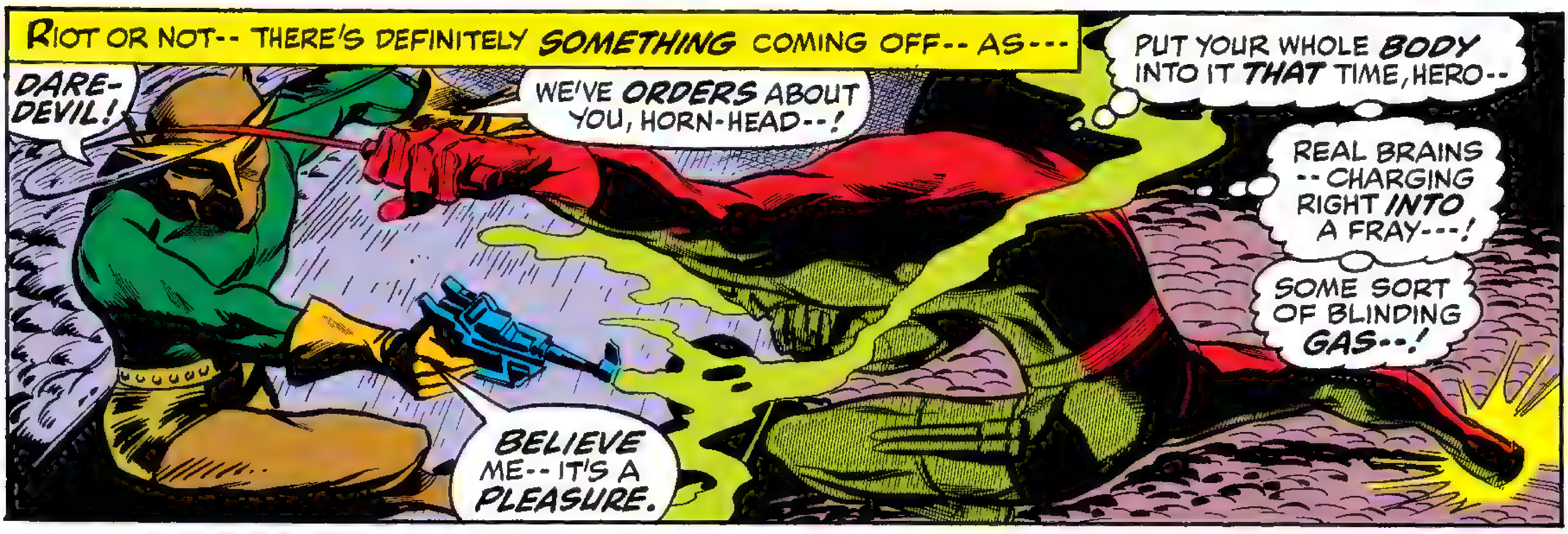

OKAY, BOSS-- OKAY. I GET THE IDEA.
SHEESH-- DO YA HAVE TO MAKE EVERY-THIN' A BLASTED SPEECH?
ENOUGH.
I SUFFER YOUR INANITIES FOR ONLY A MOMENT, FRIEND---
AND THEN I MUST TURN-- TO MORE MEANINGFUL THINGS.
FOR IT IS TIME--- FOR MY REPORT.
CLICK!
OWL! YOU'RE ALMOST TWENTY-THREE SECONDS LATE.
HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN? EVERYTHING MUST FOLLOW THE STRICTEST OF SCHEDULES-- THE MOST DELICATE OF PLANS--
YOU WERE FREED FROM PRISON FOR A PURPOSE--- MINE. HOW CLOSE ARE YOU TO ACHIEVING OUR GOAL?
QUITE CLOSE ENOUGH, MISTER KLINE.
MY FRIEND, YOUR ATTITUDE IS DEPLORABLE.
MY-- ORGANIZATION ---HAS GONE TO GREAT EXPENSE ON YOUR ACCOUNT---
AND IN RETURN, YOU'RE TO BRING US DAREDEVIL. YOU DO RECALL THAT, DON'T YOU, OWL?
YES, KLINE. AND I'VE TOLD YOU--- EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN.
THIS EVENING I STRIKE--AND BEFORE COMES THE DAWN--- DAREDEVIL WILL BE MINE!
I CERTAINLY HOPE SO, OWL. YOUR REPUTATION AS A FREE AGENT PRECEDES YOU---
-- AND IT'S A REPUTATION I HOPE ISN'T SERVED BY THE REALITY!
YOU'RE OUR MAN NOW, OWL.
FOR THE DURATION OF THIS GAME--- YOU ACT IN OUR INTERESTS--- NOT YOUR OWN.
CONSIDER THIS MAN-- A STRONG MAN-- AN INDEPENDENT ONE---
-- FOR NOW I'LL PLAY YOUR PETTY POWER-GAME, KLINE!
I-- UNDER-STAND.
BUT IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING OF THIS MIND YOU SEEK TO ENSLAVE--- BEWARE, MISTER KLINE--BEWARE!

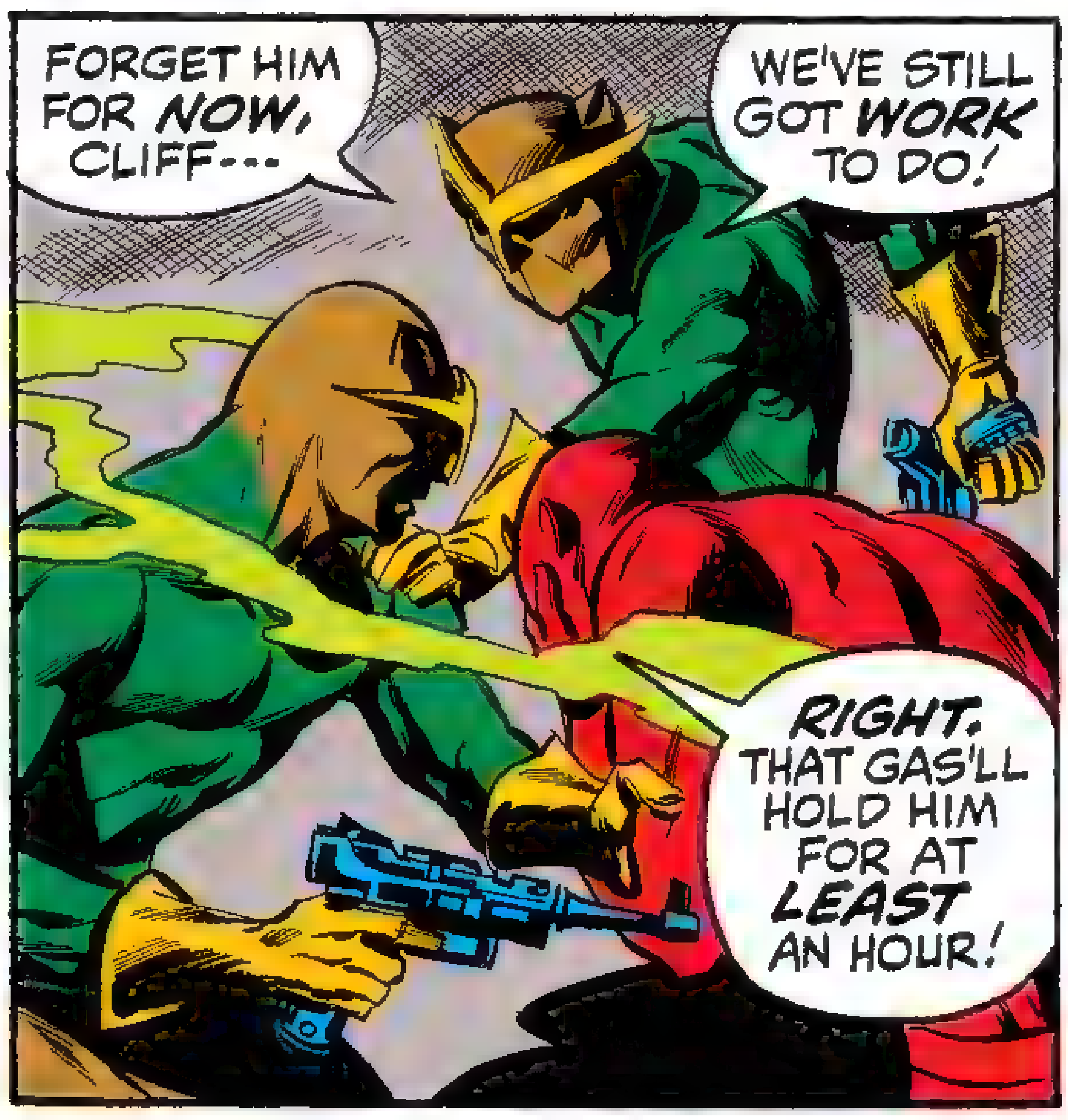

AND, AFTER THE IMAGE OF THE IRATE OWL *FADES* FROM THE SCREEN IN KLINE'S RATHER WELL-HEELED *OFFICE*, A SUBTLE TRANSFORMATION IN *CHARACTER* OCCURS---
SO IT *GOES*--- YET *ANOTHER* PIECE FALLS INTO PLACE. THE OWL *STILL* THINKS HIMSELF IN CONTROL--- *STILL* PLANS REBELLION *AGAINST* ME.
---WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I *WANT*. ONLY IF HE FIGHTS FOR *HIMSELF* WILL THE OWL BE OF ANY USE---
AND ONLY BY MAKING HIM *HATE* ME, CAN I INSURE HIS LACK OF *LOYALTY*.
BUT STILL---THESE MAUDLIN MOVES *TIRE* ME. HOW MUCH *LONGER* MUST I BE THE AGENT OF THESE *MANIPULATIONS?*
HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I OBEY THE WILL --- OF THE *MASTER?*
FOR A TIME THEN, THERE IS SILENCE --- A SILENCE THAT SEEMS TO *MINGLE* WITH THE SIFTING GRAY *SMOKE*---
SO THICK---SO *WARM*--- IN THIS DARKENED *ROOM*.
--- WELL, MR. BLAIN? IS SHE-- OR *ISN'T* SHE THE GIRL YOU'VE BEEN *LOOKING* FOR?
GIVE KAREN THE PART OF *CYNTHIA WILES*--- AND YOUR FILM WILL *HAVE* TO WIN AN OSCAR.
KEEP *TALKING*, PHIL-- KEEP HIS ATTENTION *OFF* KAREN. DON'T LET HIM SEE-- HOW *UPSET* SHE IS---
DON'T BLOW THE AGENT BIT *NOW*.
I'M *TEMPTED*, MR. HICHOCK--
BUT I'M AFRAID MISS PAGE *ISN'T*. IS SOMETHING *WRONG*, KAREN?
THE PART? YES. YES, I SUPPOSE I *DO*.
I HAVEN'T BEEN-- *LISTENING*---
MATT-- IS IT *REALLY* OVER FOR US? OVER *FOREVER?*
DON'T YOU LIKE THE *PART?*
SHE *LOVES* IT, MR. BLAIN.
DON'T YOU, HONEY?
KAREN, WHAT *IS* IT? WHAT'S *BUGGING* YOU?
OH--- NOTHING, PHIL.
JUST-- JUST A *MEMORY*.

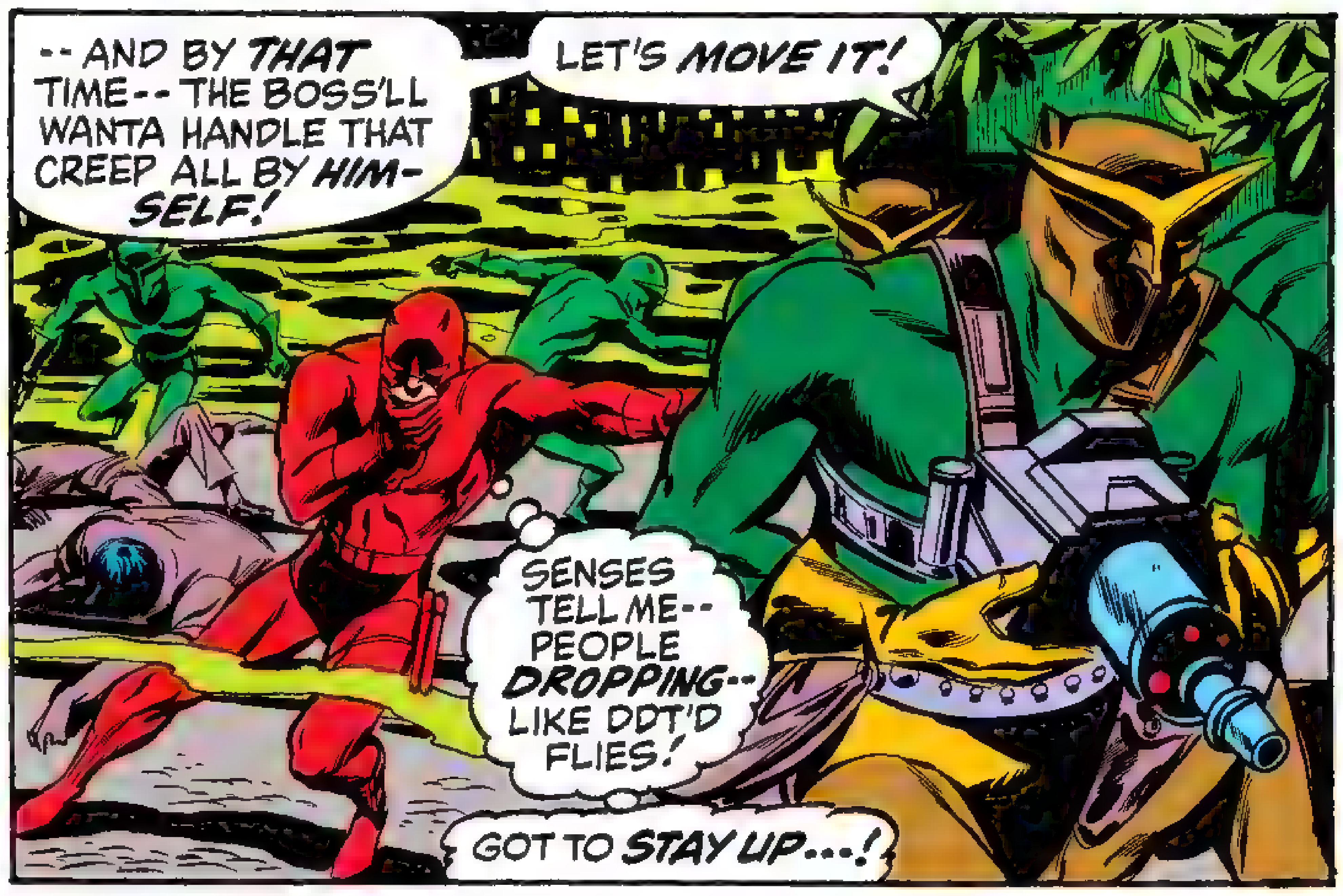

WHAT OF THE *CAUSE* OF THAT MEMORY? WHAT OF THE MAN NAMED MURDOCK--THE MAN *ALSO* KNOWN AS--- *DAREDEVIL?*
IF WE COULD BUT *SHIFT* OUR ATTENTION SO *QUICKLY*--WE'D FIND HIM STRIDING ACROSS A DARK-TARRED *ROOFTOP*--HIS THOUGHTS *FAR* FROM THE SOUL-SEARCHING *KAREN PAGE*---
IF WE COULD DO THAT, WE'D SEE---
--SOMETHING IN THE *SKY*-- APPROACHING THE MIDTOWN AREA!
IT'S LIKE A BLOTCH OF CHURNING *RED* IN MY *RADAR SENSES*---
CAREFUL, HERO --DON'T GET *UPTIGHT*.
EVEN A *SIGHTED* MAN WOULD BE *ALMOST* BLIND IN THIS DARKNESS---
SWIKA
SWIKA
SWIKA
MAYBE ALL HE'D SEE WOULD BE A PAIR OF GLOWING *HEADLIGHTS*---
--AND ALL HE'D HEAR--- WOULD BE THE *WHIRRING* OF CHOPPING BLADES---
AND MAYBE *NOW*-- MAYBE ONLY *NOW*-- HE'D BE ABLE TO TELL WHAT *YOU* ALREADY KNOW---
SWIKA
THAT BABY UP THERE'S A *HELICOPTER*---
---WITH THE MARKINGS OF THE *OWL!*

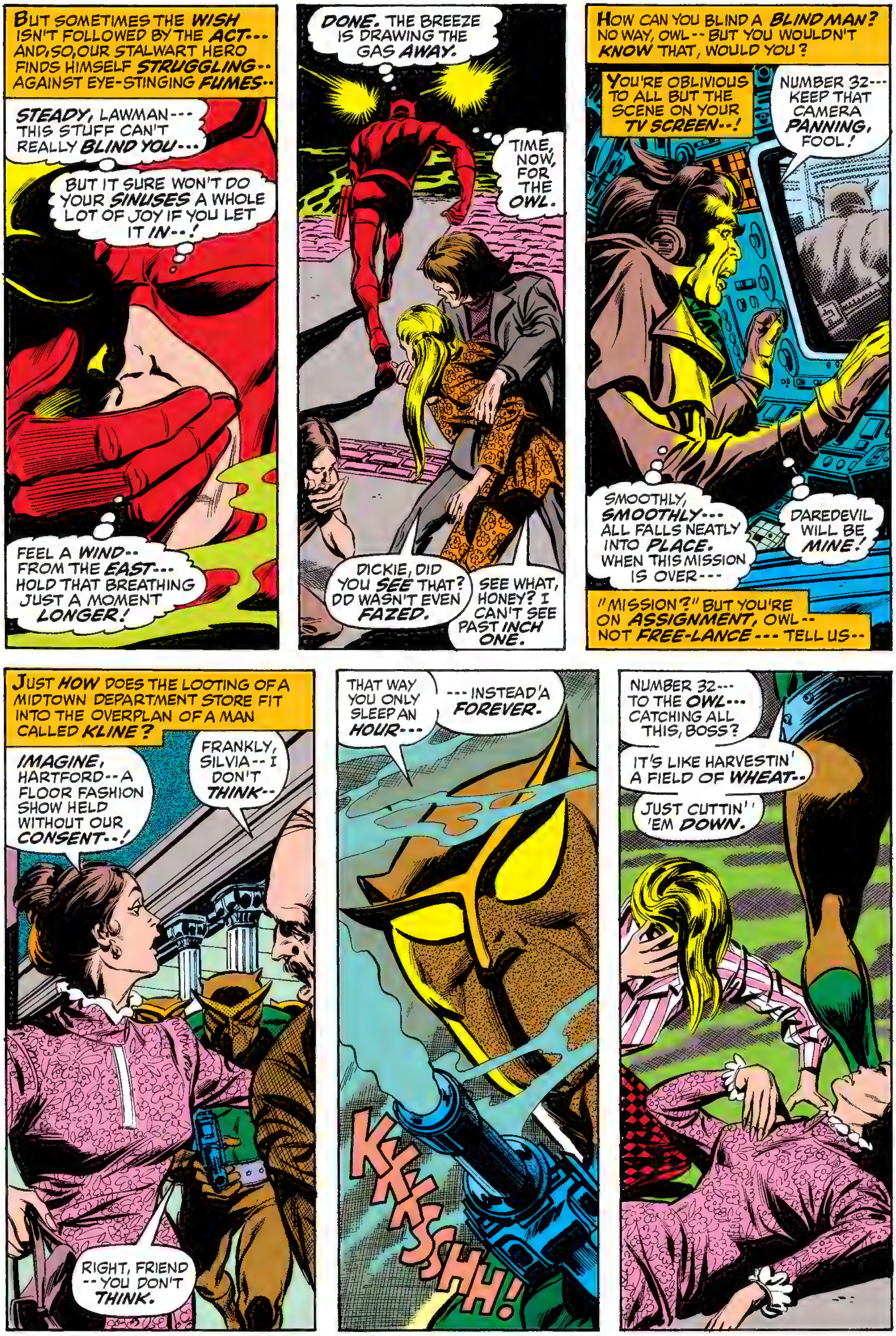

IF ANYTHING CAN TOP OFF A FAIRLY PERFECT EVENING---
FIGHTING AN OLD SPARRING-PARTNER FITS THE BILL!
UH-UNH! WATCH YOURSELF, MATTHEW--- THERE'S A NOTE OF UNWORTHY VICIOUSNESS IN YOUR EVER-LOVIN' TONE!
AND IT JUST WOULDN'T DO FOR A PUSSYCAT LIKE YOURSELF TO GET EMBROILED IN A GRUDGE-FIGHT.

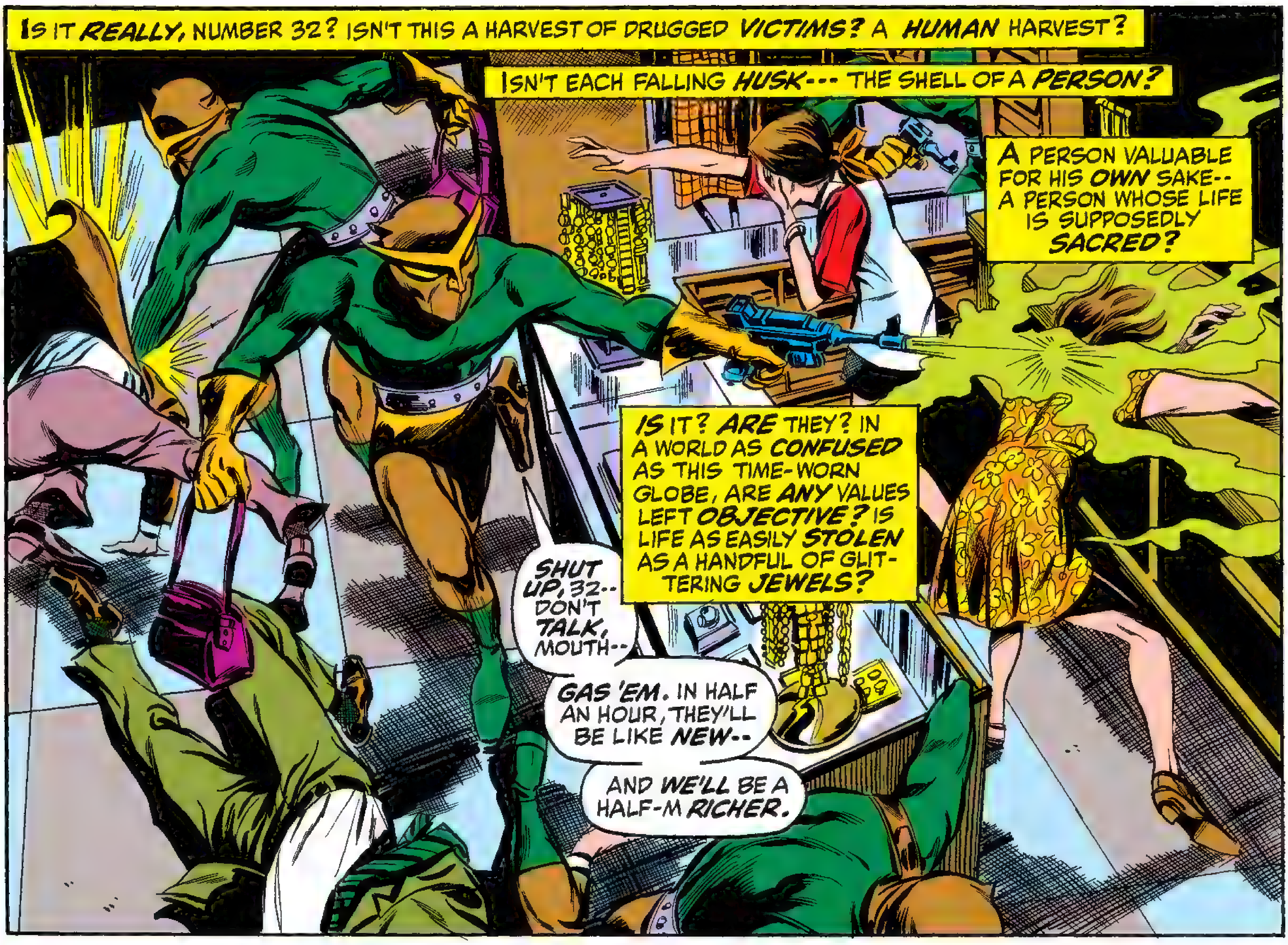

THE CONCERNS OF ONE MAN'S RATIONALIZATION ARE NOT CONCERNS OF OURS--- RATHER, LET'S SWING DOWN TO STREET LEVEL-- WHERE SOMETHING A TOUCH MORE VISUAL IS ABOUT TO OCCUR--!
WITH A CLATTER OF STRAINING STEEL, THE GIANT BIRD SETTLES LIKE A FALLING AUTUMN LEAF-- DOORS SLIDE OPEN, AND A HORDE OF COSTUMED MEN POUR FORTH--
CLEO-- THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL "FUN CITY"?
IT'S ENOUGH TO TURN A FELLA PARANOID!
MAYBE I SHOULDA STAYED IN CLEVELAND. FIRST THE VILLAGE-- AND NOW THIS!
IGNORE THEM, JOHNNY---
IT'S PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER RIOT!

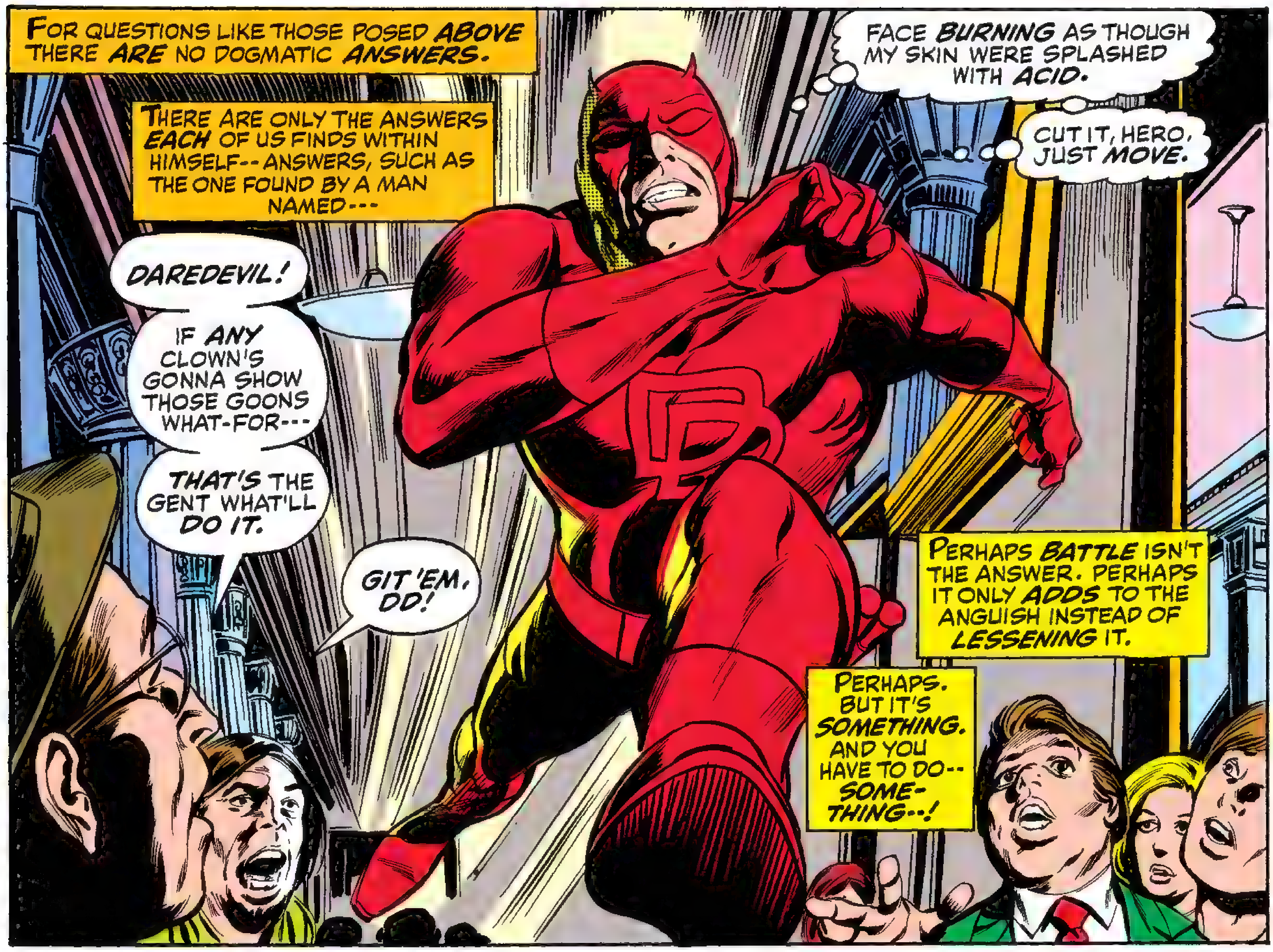

RIOT OR NOT-- THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING COMING OFF-- AS---
DAREDEVIL!
WE'VE ORDERS ABOUT YOU, HORN-HEAD--!
PUT YOUR WHOLE BODY INTO IT THAT TIME, HERO--
REAL BRAINS --CHARGING RIGHT INTO A FRAY---!
SOME SORT OF BLINDING GAS--!
BELIEVE ME-- IT'S A PLEASURE.

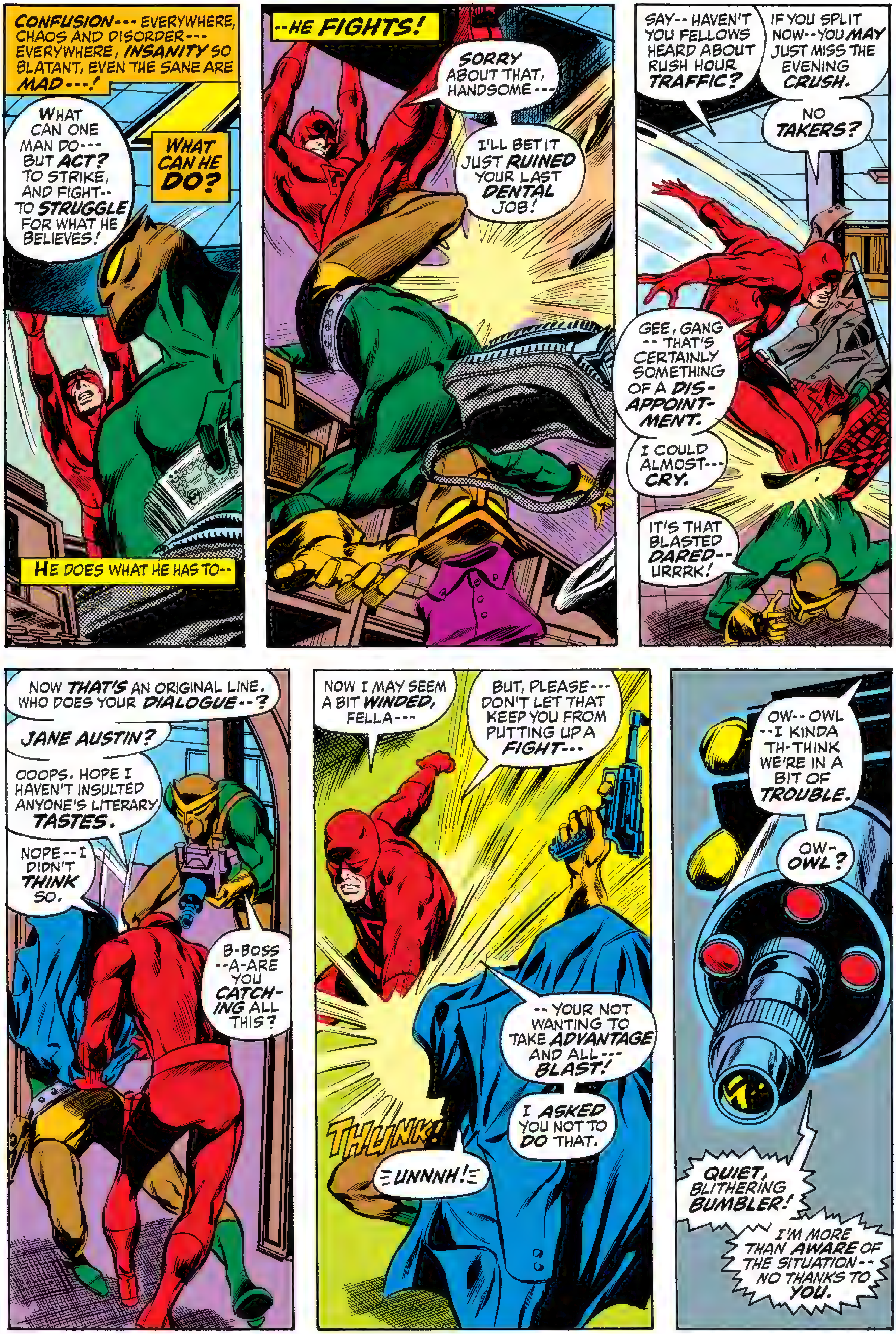

FORGET HIM FOR NOW, CLIFF---
WE'VE STILL GOT WORK TO DO!
RIGHT. THAT GAS'LL HOLD HIM FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR!

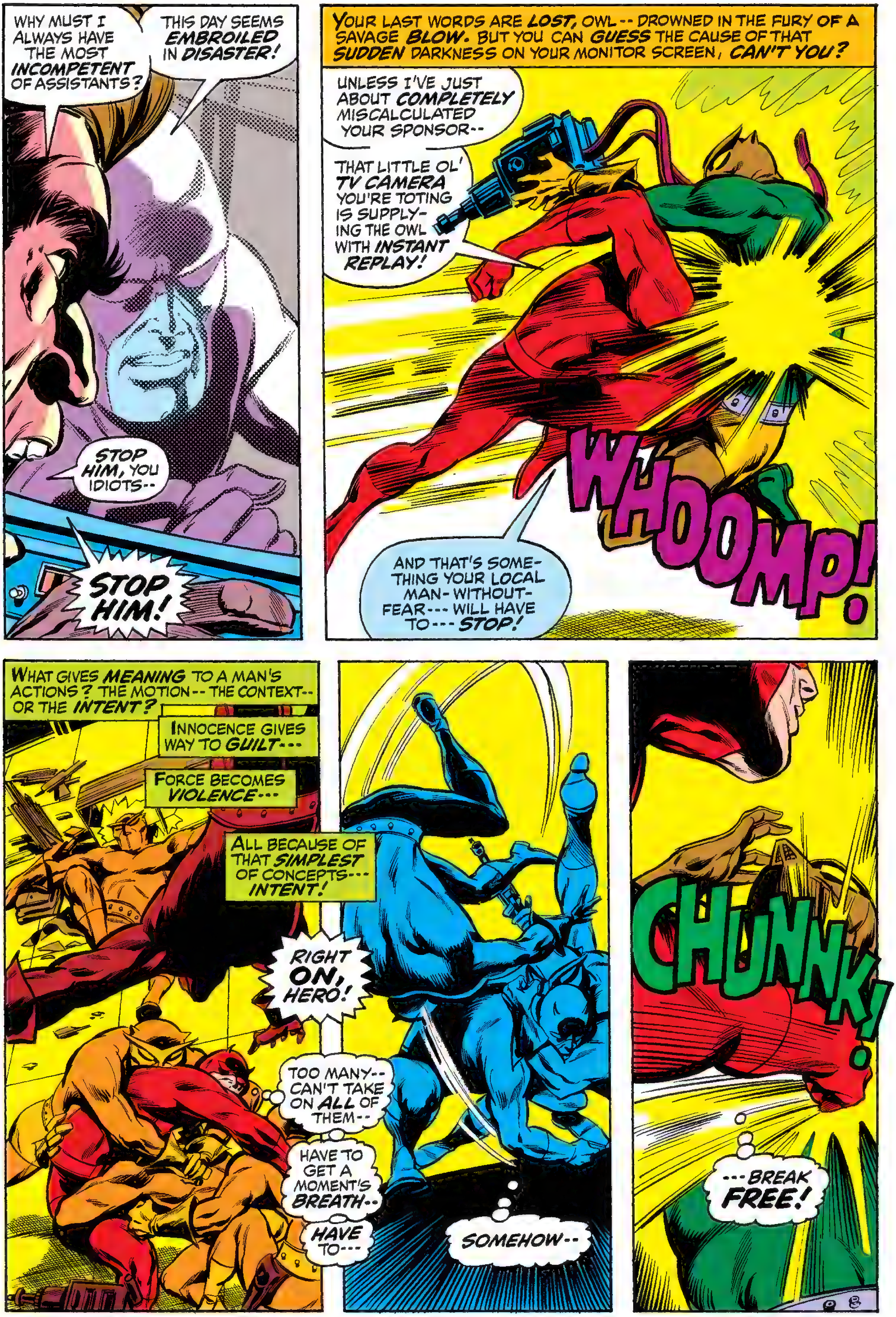

--AND BY THAT TIME-- THE BOSS'LL WANTA HANDLE THAT CREEP ALL BY HIMSELF!
LET'S MOVE IT!
SENSES TELL ME-- PEOPLE DROPPING-- LIKE DDT'D FLIES!
GOT TO STAY UP...!

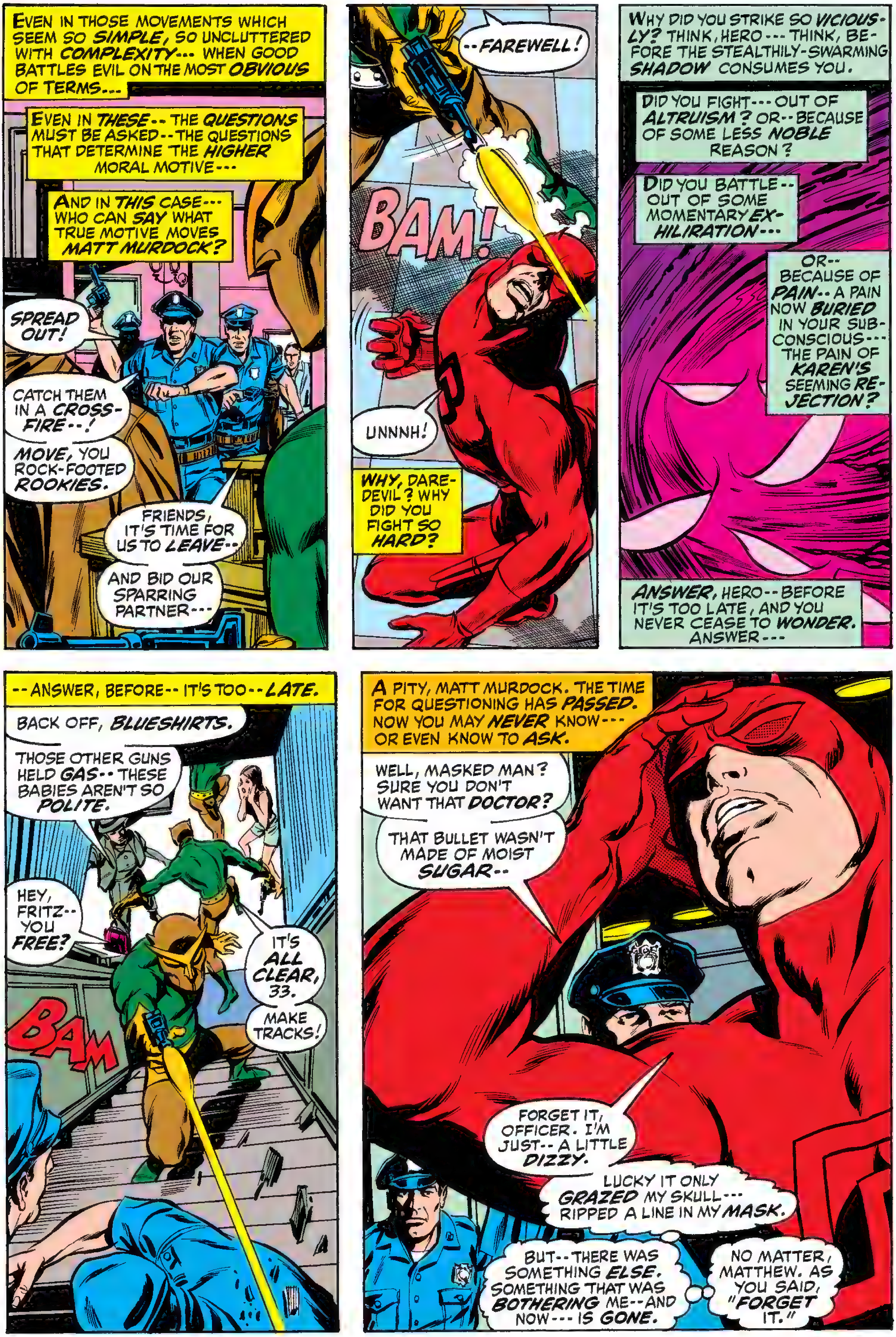

BUT SOMETIMES THE *WISH* ISN'T FOLLOWED BY THE *ACT*-- AND, SO, OUR STALWART HERO FINDS HIMSELF *STRUGGLING*-- AGAINST EYE-STINGING *FUMES*--
STEADY, LAWMAN--- THIS STUFF CAN'T REALLY *BLIND YOU*---
BUT IT SURE WON'T DO YOUR *SINUSES* A WHOLE LOT OF JOY IF YOU LET IT *IN*--!
FEEL A *WIND*-- FROM THE *EAST*--- HOLD THAT BREATHING JUST A MOMENT *LONGER!*
DONE. THE BREEZE IS DRAWING THE GAS *AWAY.*
TIME, NOW, FOR THE *OWL.*
DICKIE, DID YOU *SEE* THAT? DD WASN'T EVEN *FAZED.*
SEE WHAT, HONEY? I CAN'T SEE PAST *INCH ONE.*
HOW CAN YOU BLIND A *BLIND MAN?* NO WAY, OWL-- BUT YOU WOULDN'T *KNOW* THAT, WOULD YOU?
YOU'RE OBLIVIOUS TO ALL BUT THE SCENE ON YOUR *TV SCREEN*--!
NUMBER 32--- KEEP THAT CAMERA *PANNING*, FOOL!
SMOOTHLY, *SMOOTHLY*--- ALL FALLS NEATLY INTO *PLACE.* WHEN THIS MISSION IS OVER---
DAREDEVIL WILL BE *MINE!*
"MISSION?" BUT YOU'RE ON *ASSIGNMENT*, OWL-- NOT *FREE-LANCE*--- TELL US--
JUST *HOW* DOES THE LOOTING OF A MIDTOWN DEPARTMENT STORE FIT INTO THE OVERPLAN OF A MAN CALLED *KLINE?*
IMAGINE, HARTFORD-- A FLOOR FASHION SHOW HELD WITHOUT OUR *CONSENT*--!
FRANKLY, SILVIA-- I DON'T *THINK*--
RIGHT, FRIEND -- YOU DON'T *THINK.*
THAT WAY YOU ONLY SLEEP AN *HOUR*---
---INSTEAD'A *FOREVER.*
KKKSSHH!
NUMBER 32--- TO THE *OWL*--- CATCHING ALL THIS, BOSS?
IT'S LIKE HARVESTIN' A FIELD OF *WHEAT*--
JUST CUTTIN' 'EM *DOWN.*

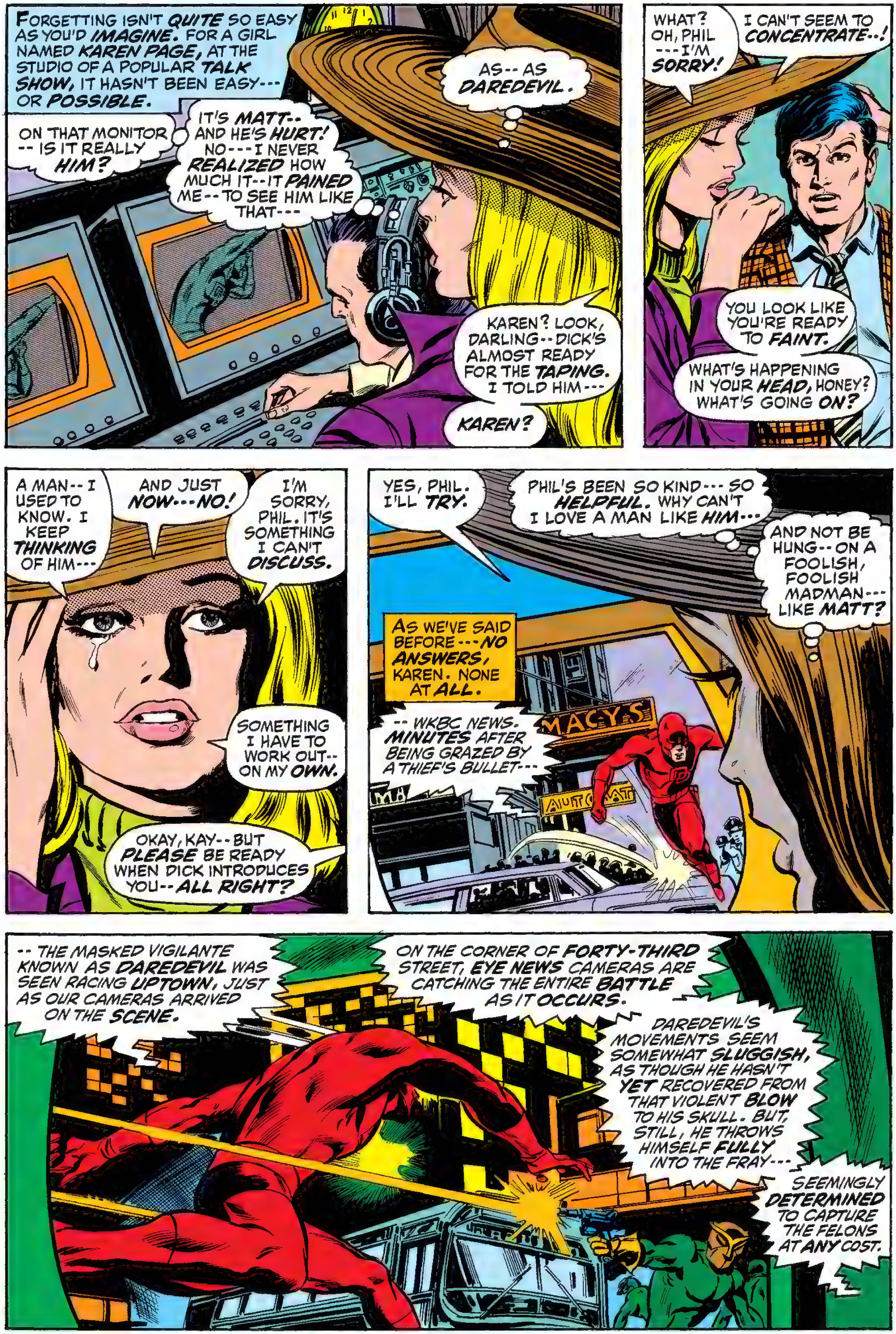

IS IT REALLY, NUMBER 32? ISN'T THIS A HARVEST OF DRUGGED VICTIMS? A HUMAN HARVEST?
ISN'T EACH FALLING HUSK--- THE SHELL OF A PERSON?
A PERSON VALUABLE FOR HIS OWN SAKE-- A PERSON WHOSE LIFE IS SUPPOSEDLY SACRED?
IS IT? ARE THEY? IN A WORLD AS CONFUSED AS THIS TIME-WORN GLOBE, ARE ANY VALUES LEFT OBJECTIVE? IS LIFE AS EASILY STOLEN AS A HANDFUL OF GLITTERING JEWELS?
SHUT UP, 32-- DON'T TALK, MOUTH--
GAS 'EM. IN HALF AN HOUR, THEY'LL BE LIKE NEW--
AND WE'LL BE A HALF-M RICHER.

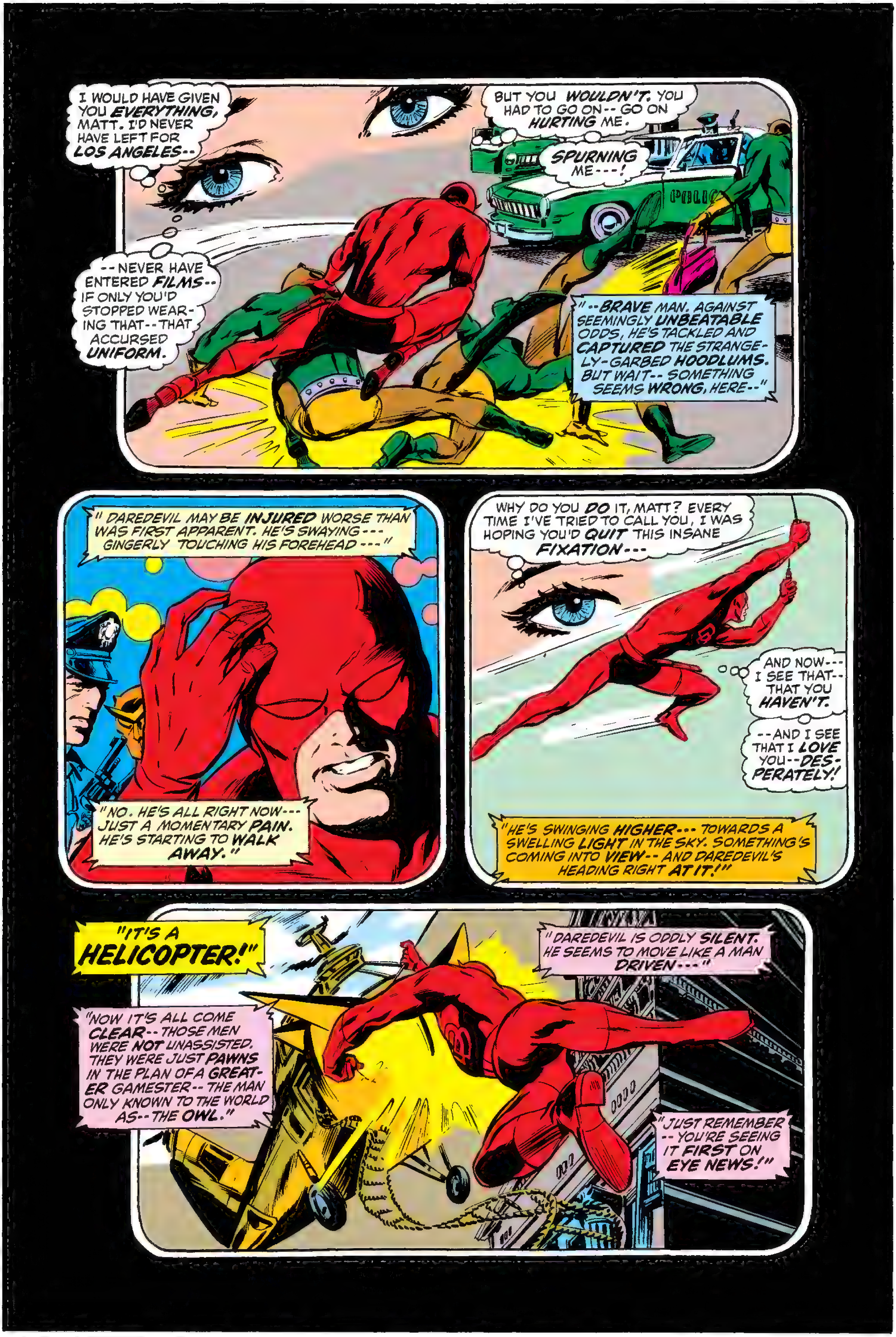

FOR QUESTIONS LIKE THOSE POSED ABOVE THERE ARE NO DOGMATIC ANSWERS.
THERE ARE ONLY THE ANSWERS EACH OF US FINDS WITHIN HIMSELF-- ANSWERS, SUCH AS THE ONE FOUND BY A MAN NAMED---
FACE BURNING AS THOUGH MY SKIN WERE SPLASHED WITH ACID.
CUT IT, HERO. JUST MOVE.
DAREDEVIL!
IF ANY CLOWN'S GONNA SHOW THOSE GOONS WHAT-FOR---
THAT'S THE GENT WHAT'LL DO IT.
GIT 'EM, DD!
PERHAPS BATTLE ISN'T THE ANSWER. PERHAPS IT ONLY ADDS TO THE ANGUISH INSTEAD OF LESSENING IT.
PERHAPS. BUT IT'S SOMETHING. AND YOU HAVE TO DO-- SOME-THING--!

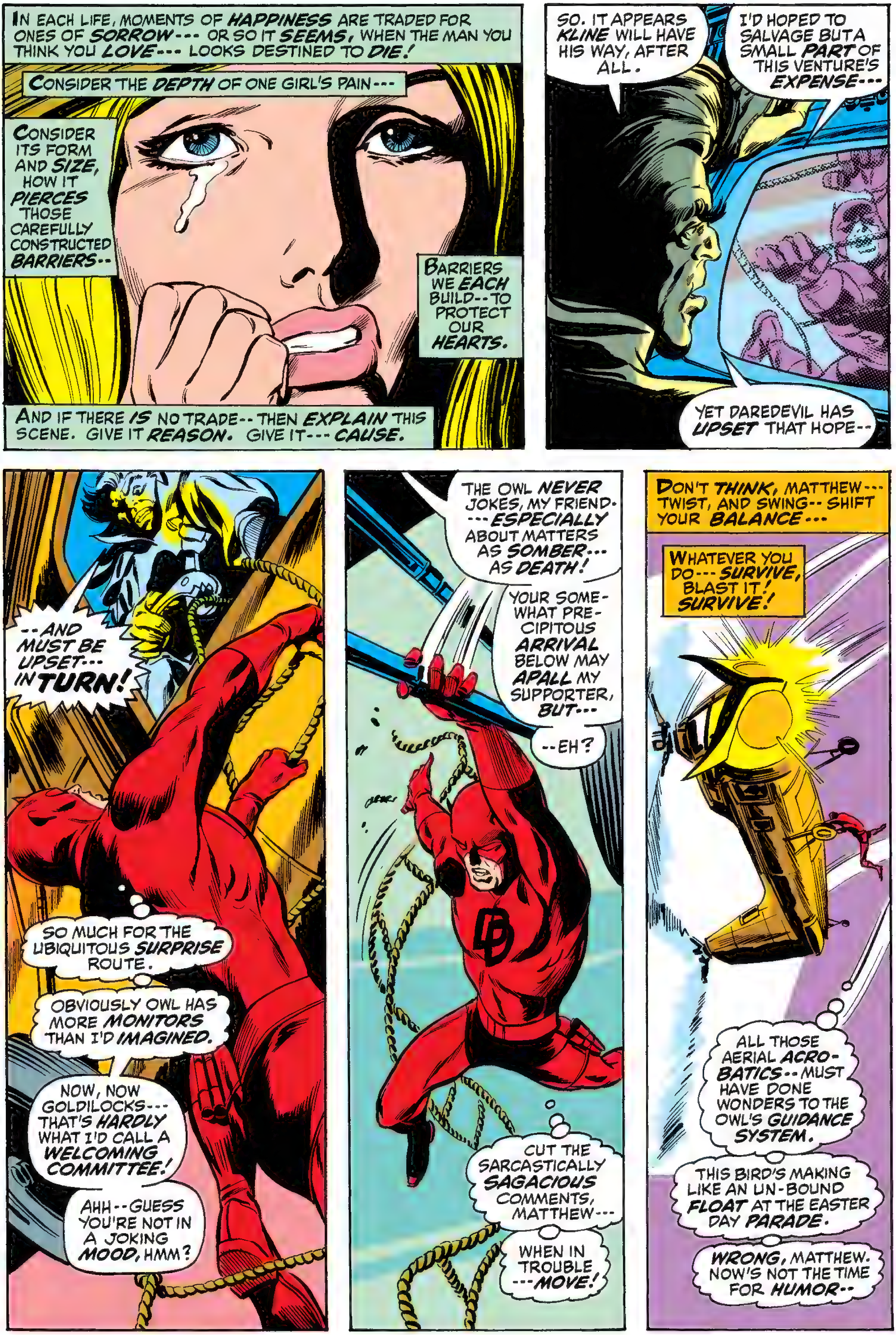

CONFUSION--- EVERYWHERE, CHAOS AND DISORDER--- EVERYWHERE, INSANITY SO BLATANT, EVEN THE SANE ARE MAD---!
WHAT CAN ONE MAN DO--- BUT ACT? TO STRIKE, AND FIGHT-- TO STRUGGLE FOR WHAT HE BELIEVES!
WHAT CAN HE DO?
HE DOES WHAT HE HAS TO--
--HE FIGHTS!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, HANDSOME---
I'LL BET IT JUST RUINED YOUR LAST DENTAL JOB!
SAY-- HAVEN'T YOU FELLOWS HEARD ABOUT RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC?
IF YOU SPLIT NOW--YOU MAY JUST MISS THE EVENING CRUSH.
NO TAKERS?
GEE, GANG -- THAT'S CERTAINLY SOMETHING OF A DISAPPOINTMENT.
I COULD ALMOST--- CRY.
IT'S THAT BLASTED DARED-- URRRK!
NOW THAT'S AN ORIGINAL LINE. WHO DOES YOUR DIALOGUE--?
JANE AUSTIN?
OOOPS. HOPE I HAVEN'T INSULTED ANYONE'S LITERARY TASTES.
NOPE--I DIDN'T THINK SO.
B-BOSS --A-ARE YOU CATCHING ALL THIS?
NOW I MAY SEEM A BIT WINDED, FELLA---
BUT, PLEASE--- DON'T LET THAT KEEP YOU FROM PUTTING UP A FIGHT---
--YOUR NOT WANTING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE AND ALL--- BLAST!
I ASKED YOU NOT TO DO THAT.
THUNK!
UNNNH!
OW-- OWL --I KINDA TH-THINK WE'RE IN A BIT OF TROUBLE.
OW-OWL?
QUIET, BLITHERING BUMBLER!
I'M MORE THAN AWARE OF THE SITUATION-- NO THANKS TO YOU.

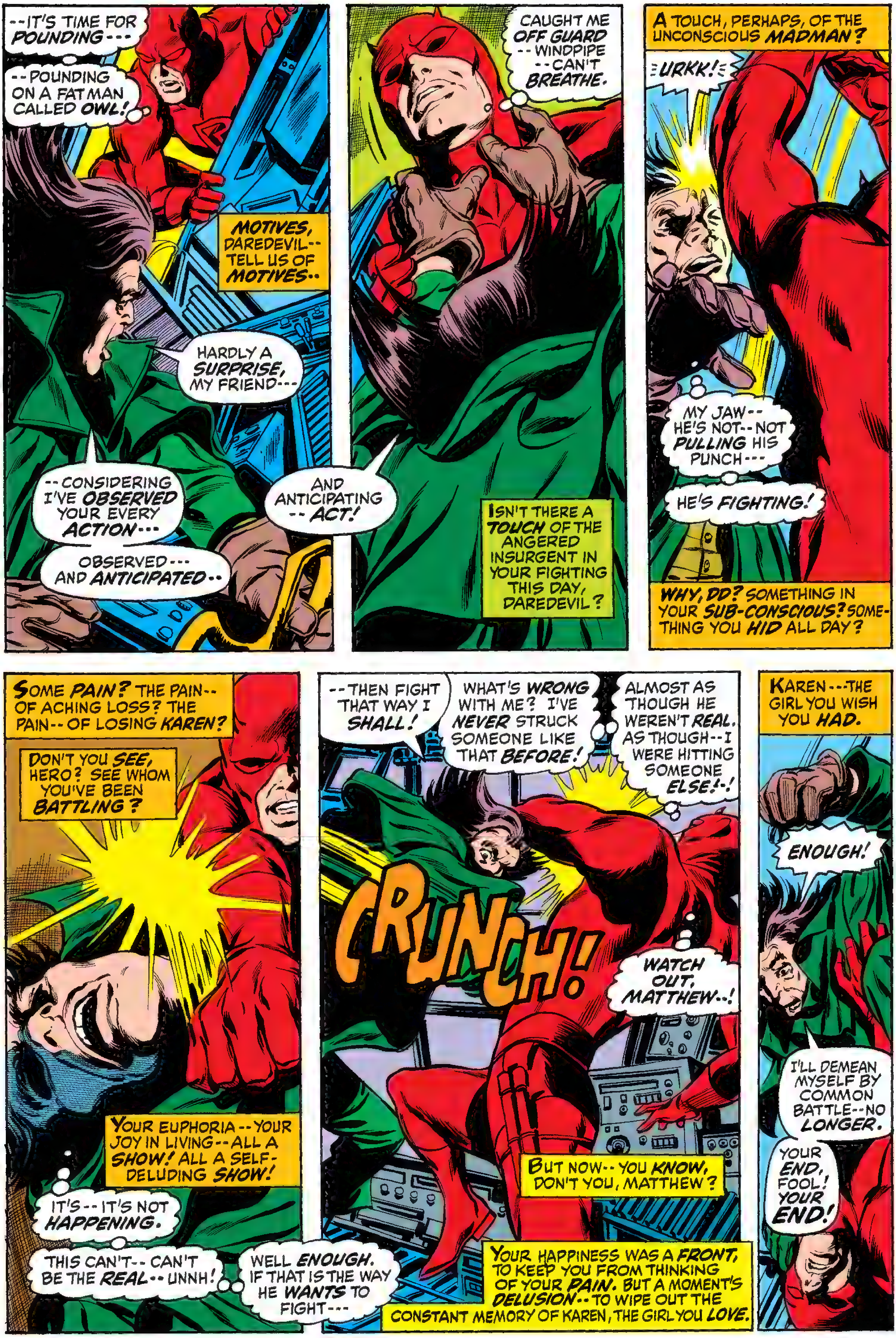

WHY MUST I ALWAYS HAVE THE MOST *INCOMPETENT* OF ASSISTANTS?
THIS DAY SEEMS *EMBROILED* IN *DISASTER!*
STOP HIM, YOU IDIOTS--
STOP HIM!
YOUR LAST WORDS ARE *LOST,* OWL -- DROWNED IN THE FURY OF A SAVAGE *BLOW.* BUT YOU CAN *GUESS* THE CAUSE OF THAT *SUDDEN* DARKNESS ON YOUR MONITOR SCREEN, *CAN'T YOU?*
UNLESS I'VE JUST ABOUT *COMPLETELY* MISCALCULATED YOUR SPONSOR--
THAT LITTLE OL' *TV CAMERA* YOU'RE TOTING IS SUPPLYING THE OWL WITH *INSTANT REPLAY!*
WHOOMP!
AND THAT'S SOMETHING YOUR LOCAL MAN-WITHOUT-FEAR--- WILL HAVE TO--- *STOP!*
WHAT GIVES *MEANING* TO A MAN'S ACTIONS? THE MOTION -- THE CONTEXT -- OR THE *INTENT?*
INNOCENCE GIVES WAY TO *GUILT*---
FORCE BECOMES *VIOLENCE*---
ALL BECAUSE OF THAT *SIMPLEST* OF CONCEPTS--- *INTENT!*
RIGHT ON, HERO!
TOO MANY-- CAN'T TAKE ON *ALL* OF THEM--
HAVE TO GET A MOMENT'S *BREATH*--
HAVE TO---
SOMEHOW--
CHUNNK!
---*BREAK FREE!*

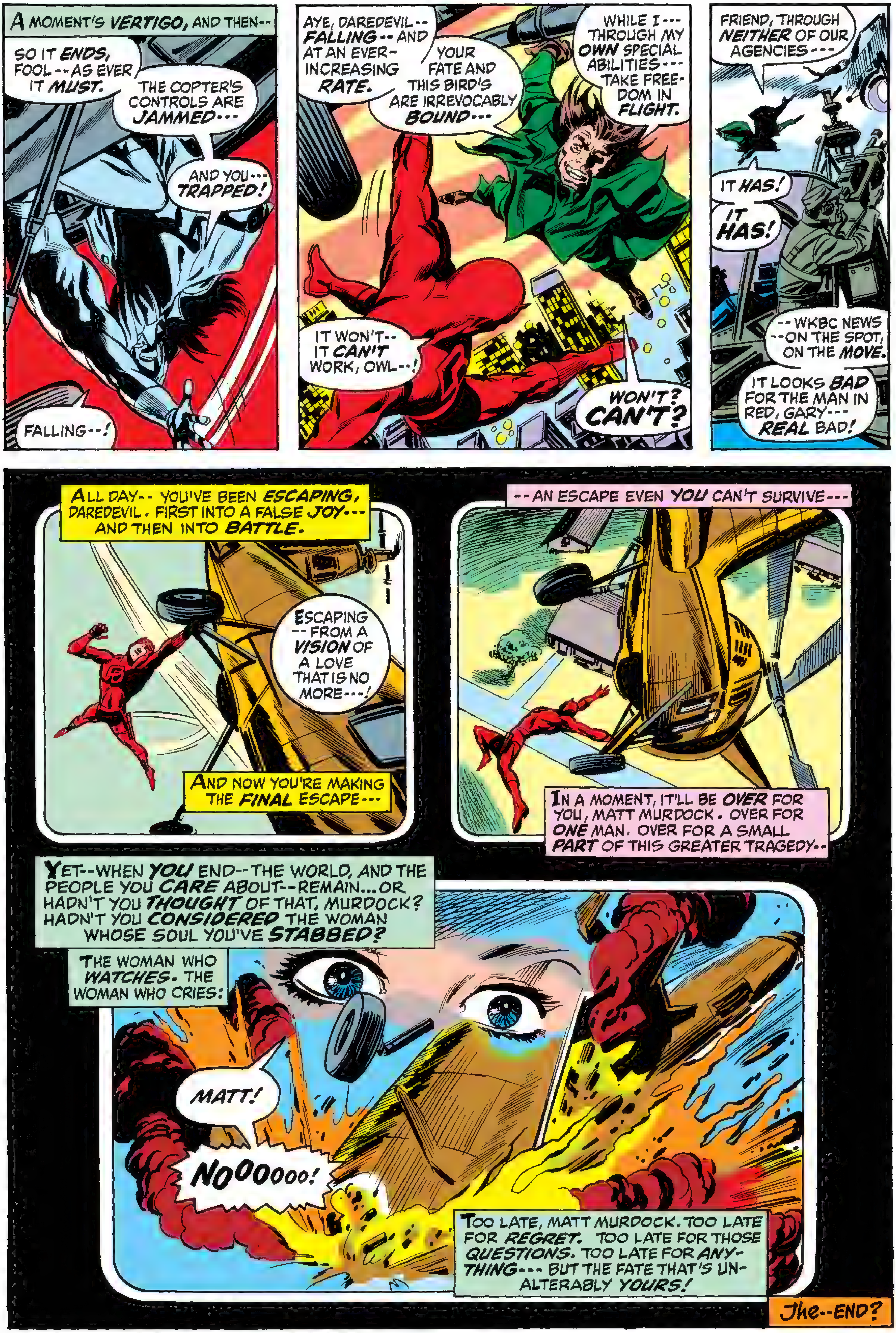

EVEN IN THOSE MOVEMENTS WHICH SEEM SO SIMPLE, SO UNCLUTTERED WITH COMPLEXITY... WHEN GOOD BATTLES EVIL ON THE MOST OBVIOUS OF TERMS...
EVEN IN THESE-- THE QUESTIONS MUST BE ASKED--THE QUESTIONS THAT DETERMINE THE HIGHER MORAL MOTIVE---
AND IN THIS CASE--- WHO CAN SAY WHAT TRUE MOTIVE MOVES MATT MURDOCK?
SPREAD OUT!
CATCH THEM IN A CROSS-FIRE--!
MOVE, YOU ROCK-FOOTED ROOKIES.
FRIENDS, IT'S TIME FOR US TO LEAVE--
AND BID OUR SPARRING PARTNER---
--FAREWELL!
BAM!
UNNNH!
WHY, DAREDEVIL? WHY DID YOU FIGHT SO HARD?
WHY DID YOU STRIKE SO VICIOUSLY? THINK, HERO--- THINK, BEFORE THE STEALTHILY-SWARMING SHADOW CONSUMES YOU.
DID YOU FIGHT--- OUT OF ALTRUISM? OR-- BECAUSE OF SOME LESS NOBLE REASON?
DID YOU BATTLE-- OUT OF SOME MOMENTARY EXHILIRATION---
OR-- BECAUSE OF PAIN-- A PAIN NOW BURIED IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS--- THE PAIN OF KAREN'S SEEMING REJECTION?
ANSWER, HERO-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, AND YOU NEVER CEASE TO WONDER. ANSWER---
--ANSWER, BEFORE-- IT'S TOO--LATE.
BACK OFF, BLUESHIRTS.
THOSE OTHER GUNS HELD GAS-- THESE BABIES AREN'T SO POLITE.
HEY, FRITZ-- YOU FREE?
IT'S ALL CLEAR, 33.
MAKE TRACKS!
BAM
A PITY, MATT MURDOCK. THE TIME FOR QUESTIONING HAS PASSED. NOW YOU MAY NEVER KNOW--- OR EVEN KNOW TO ASK.
WELL, MASKED MAN? SURE YOU DON'T WANT THAT DOCTOR?
THAT BULLET WASN'T MADE OF MOIST SUGAR--
FORGET IT, OFFICER. I'M JUST-- A LITTLE DIZZY.
LUCKY IT ONLY GRAZED MY SKULL--- RIPPED A LINE IN MY MASK.
BUT-- THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING THAT WAS BOTHERING ME--AND NOW--- IS GONE.
NO MATTER, MATTHEW. AS YOU SAID, "FORGET IT."


FORGETTING ISN'T QUITE SO EASY AS YOU'D IMAGINE. FOR A GIRL NAMED KAREN PAGE, AT THE STUDIO OF A POPULAR TALK SHOW, IT HASN'T BEEN EASY--- OR POSSIBLE.
ON THAT MONITOR -- IS IT REALLY HIM?
IT'S MATT-- AND HE'S HURT! NO---I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH IT--IT PAINED ME--TO SEE HIM LIKE THAT---
AS--AS DAREDEVIL.
KAREN? LOOK, DARLING--DICK'S ALMOST READY FOR THE TAPING. I TOLD HIM---
KAREN?
WHAT? OH, PHIL ---I'M SORRY!
I CAN'T SEEM TO CONCENTRATE--!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE READY TO FAINT.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR HEAD, HONEY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
A MAN--I USED TO KNOW. I KEEP THINKING OF HIM---
AND JUST NOW---NO!
I'M SORRY, PHIL. IT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T DISCUSS.
SOMETHING I HAVE TO WORK OUT-- ON MY OWN.
OKAY, KAY--BUT PLEASE BE READY WHEN DICK INTRODUCES YOU--ALL RIGHT?
YES, PHIL. I'LL TRY.
PHIL'S BEEN SO KIND--- SO HELPFUL. WHY CAN'T I LOVE A MAN LIKE HIM---
AND NOT BE HUNG--ON A FOOLISH, FOOLISH MADMAN--- LIKE MATT?
AS WE'VE SAID BEFORE---NO ANSWERS, KAREN. NONE AT ALL.
--WKBC NEWS. MINUTES AFTER BEING GRAZED BY A THIEF'S BULLET---
MACY'S
--THE MASKED VIGILANTE KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL WAS SEEN RACING UPTOWN, JUST AS OUR CAMERAS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.
ON THE CORNER OF FORTY-THIRD STREET, EYE NEWS CAMERAS ARE CATCHING THE ENTIRE BATTLE AS IT OCCURS.
DAREDEVIL'S MOVEMENTS SEEM SOMEWHAT SLUGGISH, AS THOUGH HE HASN'T YET RECOVERED FROM THAT VIOLENT BLOW TO HIS SKULL. BUT, STILL, HE THROWS HIMSELF FULLY INTO THE FRAY---
SEEMINGLY DETERMINED TO CAPTURE THE FELONS AT ANY COST.


I WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING, MATT. I'D NEVER HAVE LEFT FOR LOS ANGELES--
BUT YOU WOULDN'T. YOU HAD TO GO ON-- GO ON HURTING ME.
SPURNING ME---!
--NEVER HAVE ENTERED FILMS-- IF ONLY YOU'D STOPPED WEARING THAT--THAT ACCURSED UNIFORM.
POLICE
"--BRAVE MAN. AGAINST SEEMINGLY UNBEATABLE ODDS, HE'S TACKLED AND CAPTURED THE STRANGELY-GARBED HOODLUMS. BUT WAIT-- SOMETHING SEEMS WRONG, HERE--"
"DAREDEVIL MAY BE INJURED WORSE THAN WAS FIRST APPARENT. HE'S SWAYING--- GINGERLY TOUCHING HIS FOREHEAD---"
"NO. HE'S ALL RIGHT NOW--- JUST A MOMENTARY PAIN. HE'S STARTING TO WALK AWAY."
WHY DO YOU DO IT, MATT? EVERY TIME I'VE TRIED TO CALL YOU, I WAS HOPING YOU'D QUIT THIS INSANE FIXATION---
AND NOW--- I SEE THAT-- THAT YOU HAVEN'T.
--AND I SEE THAT I LOVE YOU--DESPERATELY!
"HE'S SWINGING HIGHER--- TOWARDS A SWELLING LIGHT IN THE SKY. SOMETHING'S COMING INTO VIEW-- AND DAREDEVIL'S HEADING RIGHT AT IT!"
"IT'S A HELICOPTER!"
"DAREDEVIL IS ODDLY SILENT. HE SEEMS TO MOVE LIKE A MAN DRIVEN---"
"NOW IT'S ALL COME CLEAR-- THOSE MEN WERE NOT UNASSISTED. THEY WERE JUST PAWNS IN THE PLAN OF A GREATER GAMESTER-- THE MAN ONLY KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS--THE OWL."
"JUST REMEMBER --YOU'RE SEEING IT FIRST ON EYE NEWS!"


IN EACH LIFE, MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS ARE TRADED FOR ONES OF SORROW--- OR SO IT SEEMS, WHEN THE MAN YOU THINK YOU LOVE--- LOOKS DESTINED TO DIE!
CONSIDER THE DEPTH OF ONE GIRL'S PAIN---
CONSIDER ITS FORM AND SIZE, HOW IT PIERCES THOSE CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED BARRIERS--
BARRIERS WE EACH BUILD--TO PROTECT OUR HEARTS.
AND IF THERE IS NO TRADE--THEN EXPLAIN THIS SCENE. GIVE IT REASON. GIVE IT--- CAUSE.
SO. IT APPEARS KLINE WILL HAVE HIS WAY, AFTER ALL.
I'D HOPED TO SALVAGE BUT A SMALL PART OF THIS VENTURE'S EXPENSE---
YET DAREDEVIL HAS UPSET THAT HOPE--
--AND MUST BE UPSET--- IN TURN!
SO MUCH FOR THE UBIQUITOUS SURPRISE ROUTE.
OBVIOUSLY OWL HAS MORE MONITORS THAN I'D IMAGINED.
NOW, NOW GOLDILOCKS--- THAT'S HARDLY WHAT I'D CALL A WELCOMING COMMITTEE!
AHH--GUESS YOU'RE NOT IN A JOKING MOOD, HMM?
THE OWL NEVER JOKES, MY FRIEND. ---ESPECIALLY ABOUT MATTERS AS SOMBER--- AS DEATH!
YOUR SOMEWHAT PRECIPITOUS ARRIVAL BELOW MAY APALL MY SUPPORTER, BUT---
--EH?
CUT THE SARCASTICALLY SAGACIOUS COMMENTS, MATTHEW---
WHEN IN TROUBLE ---MOVE!
DON'T THINK, MATTHEW--- TWIST, AND SWING-- SHIFT YOUR BALANCE---
WHATEVER YOU DO--- SURVIVE, BLAST IT! SURVIVE!
ALL THOSE AERIAL ACROBATICS--MUST HAVE DONE WONDERS TO THE OWL'S GUIDANCE SYSTEM.
THIS BIRD'S MAKING LIKE AN UN-BOUND FLOAT AT THE EASTER DAY PARADE.
WRONG, MATTHEW. NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR HUMOR--


--IT'S TIME FOR POUNDING---
--POUNDING ON A FAT MAN CALLED OWL!
MOTIVES, DAREDEVIL--TELL US OF MOTIVES..
HARDLY A SURPRISE, MY FRIEND---
--CONSIDERING I'VE OBSERVED YOUR EVERY ACTION---
OBSERVED---AND ANTICIPATED--
CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD --WINDPIPE --CAN'T BREATHE.
AND ANTICIPATING --ACT!
ISN'T THERE A TOUCH OF THE ANGERED INSURGENT IN YOUR FIGHTING THIS DAY, DAREDEVIL?
A TOUCH, PERHAPS, OF THE UNCONSCIOUS MADMAN?
URKK!
MY JAW--HE'S NOT--NOT PULLING HIS PUNCH---
HE'S FIGHTING!
WHY, DD? SOMETHING IN YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS? SOMETHING YOU HID ALL DAY?
SOME PAIN? THE PAIN--OF ACHING LOSS? THE PAIN--OF LOSING KAREN?
DON'T YOU SEE, HERO? SEE WHOM YOU'VE BEEN BATTLING?
YOUR EUPHORIA--YOUR JOY IN LIVING--ALL A SHOW! ALL A SELF-DELUDING SHOW!
IT'S--IT'S NOT HAPPENING.
THIS CAN'T--CAN'T BE THE REAL--UNNH!
WELL ENOUGH. IF THAT IS THE WAY HE WANTS TO FIGHT---
--THEN FIGHT THAT WAY I SHALL!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I'VE NEVER STRUCK SOMEONE LIKE THAT BEFORE!
ALMOST AS THOUGH HE WEREN'T REAL. AS THOUGH--I WERE HITTING SOMEONE ELSE!-!
CRUNCH!
WATCH OUT, MATTHEW--!
BUT NOW--YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU, MATTHEW?
YOUR HAPPINESS WAS A FRONT, TO KEEP YOU FROM THINKING OF YOUR PAIN. BUT A MOMENT'S DELUSION--TO WIPE OUT THE CONSTANT MEMORY OF KAREN, THE GIRL YOU LOVE.
KAREN---THE GIRL YOU WISH YOU HAD.
ENOUGH!
I'LL DEMEAN MYSELF BY COMMON BATTLE--NO LONGER.
YOUR END, FOOL! YOUR END!


A MOMENT'S VERTIGO, AND THEN--
SO IT ENDS, FOOL--AS EVER IT MUST.
THE COPTER'S CONTROLS ARE JAMMED---
AND YOU---TRAPPED!
FALLING--!
AYE, DAREDEVIL--FALLING--AND AT AN EVER-INCREASING RATE.
YOUR FATE AND THIS BIRD'S ARE IRREVOCABLY BOUND---
WHILE I---THROUGH MY OWN SPECIAL ABILITIES---TAKE FREEDOM IN FLIGHT.
IT WON'T--IT CAN'T WORK, OWL--!
WON'T? CAN'T?
FRIEND, THROUGH NEITHER OF OUR AGENCIES---
IT HAS!
IT HAS!
--WKBC NEWS--ON THE SPOT, ON THE MOVE.
IT LOOKS BAD FOR THE MAN IN RED, GARY---REAL BAD!
ALL DAY-- YOU'VE BEEN ESCAPING, DAREDEVIL. FIRST INTO A FALSE JOY---AND THEN INTO BATTLE.
ESCAPING--FROM A VISION OF A LOVE THAT IS NO MORE---!
AND NOW YOU'RE MAKING THE FINAL ESCAPE---
--AN ESCAPE EVEN YOU CAN'T SURVIVE---
IN A MOMENT, IT'LL BE OVER FOR YOU, MATT MURDOCK. OVER FOR ONE MAN. OVER FOR A SMALL PART OF THIS GREATER TRAGEDY--
YET--WHEN YOU END--THE WORLD, AND THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT--REMAIN...OR HADN'T YOU THOUGHT OF THAT, MURDOCK? HADN'T YOU CONSIDERED THE WOMAN WHOSE SOUL YOU'VE STABBED?
THE WOMAN WHO WATCHES. THE WOMAN WHO CRIES:
MATT!
NOOOooo!
TOO LATE, MATT MURDOCK. TOO LATE FOR REGRET. TOO LATE FOR THOSE QUESTIONS. TOO LATE FOR ANYTHING--- BUT THE FATE THAT'S UNALTERABLY YOURS!
The--END?

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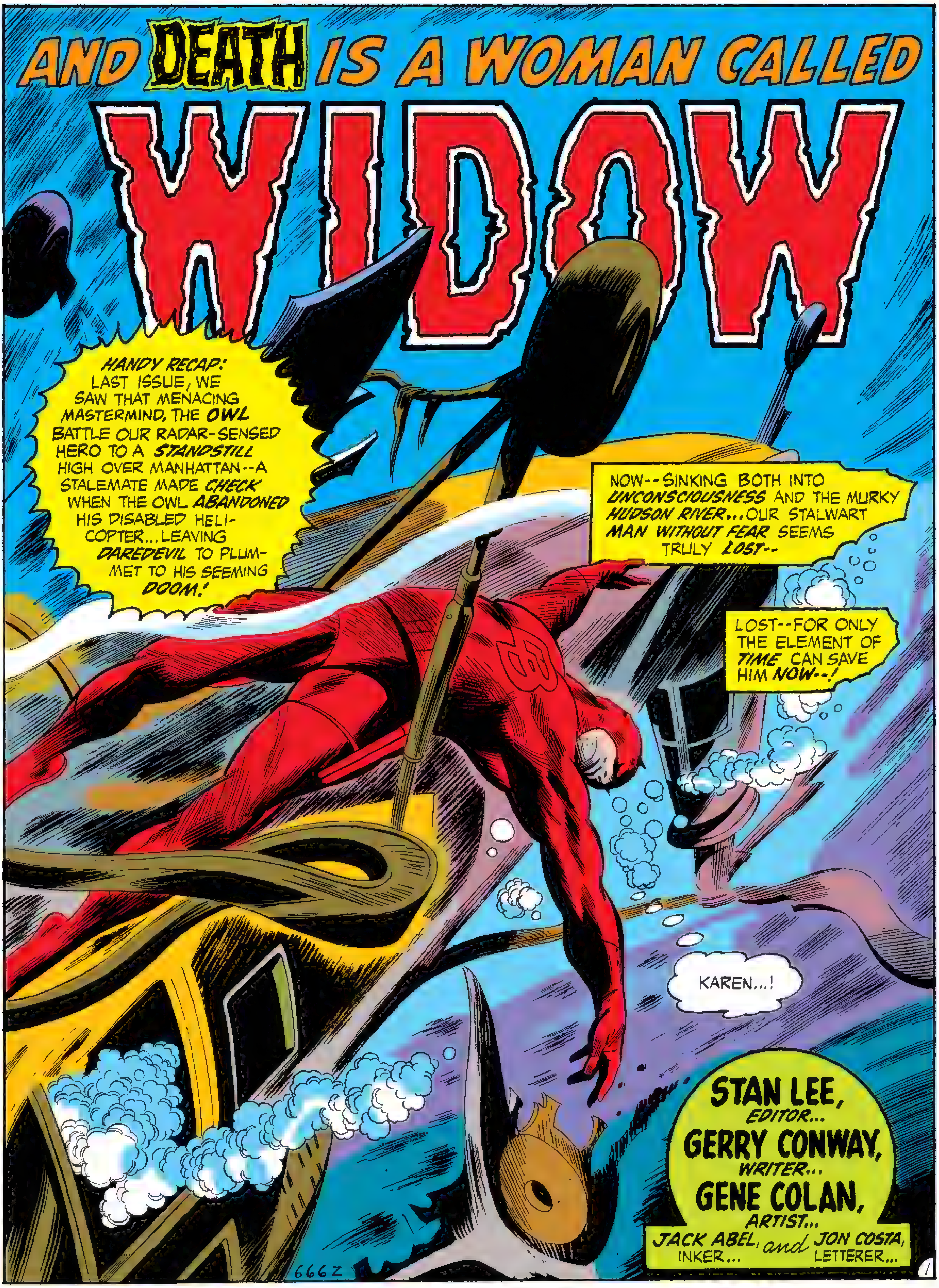
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL™
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
™
DEATH IS A BLACK WIDOW!


AND DEATH IS A WOMAN CALLED
WIDOW
HANDY RECAP: LAST ISSUE, WE SAW THAT MENACING MASTERMIND, THE OWL BATTLE OUR RADAR-SENSED HERO TO A STANDSTILL HIGH OVER MANHATTAN--A STALEMATE MADE CHECK WHEN THE OWL ABANDONED HIS DISABLED HELICOPTER...LEAVING DAREDEVIL TO PLUMMET TO HIS SEEMING DOOM!
NOW--SINKING BOTH INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND THE MURKY HUDSON RIVER...OUR STALWART MAN WITHOUT FEAR SEEMS TRULY LOST--
LOST--FOR ONLY THE ELEMENT OF TIME CAN SAVE HIM NOW--!
KAREN...!
STAN LEE, EDITOR...
GERRY CONWAY, WRITER...
GENE COLAN, ARTIST...
JACK ABEL, INKER... and JON COSTA, LETTERER...
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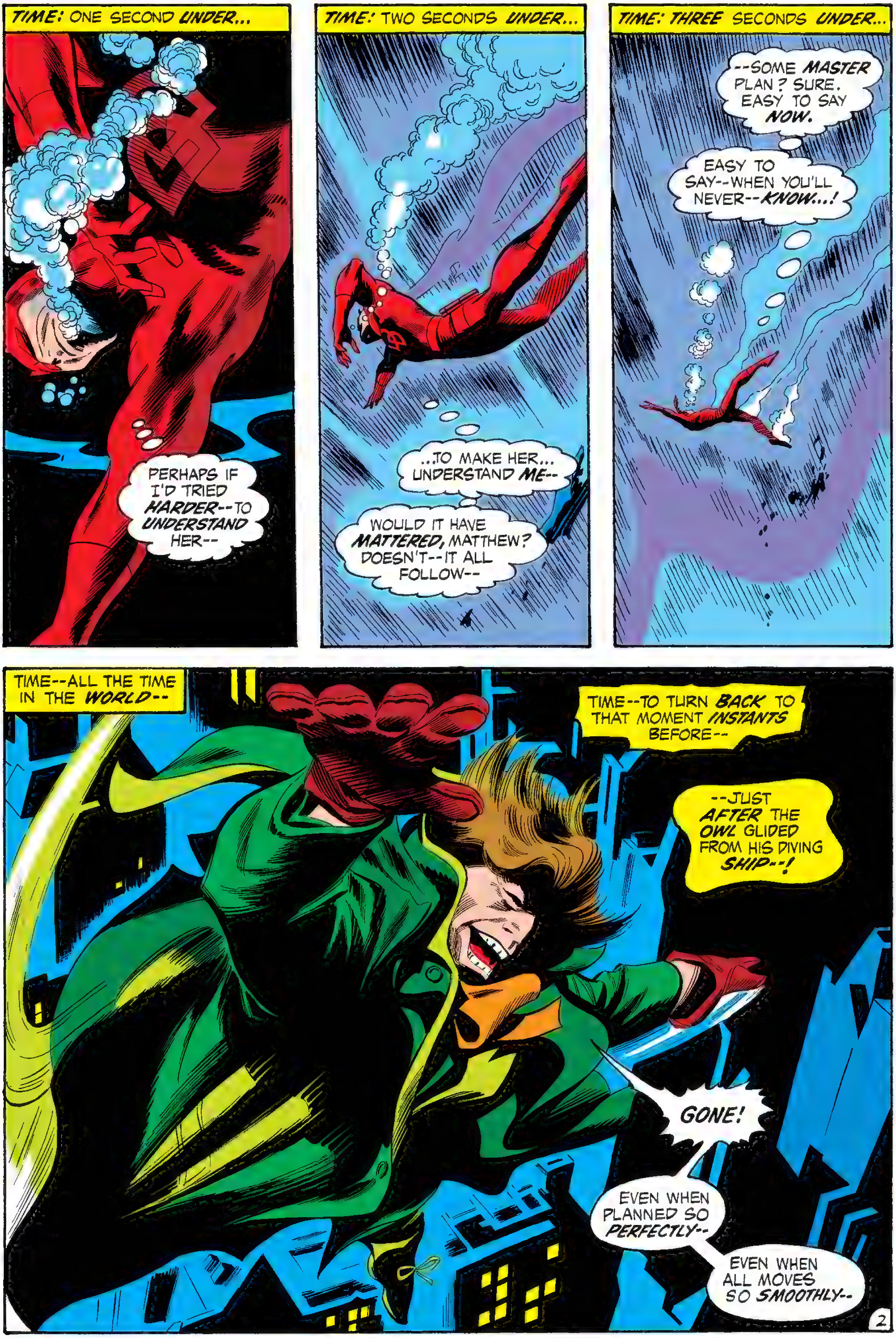
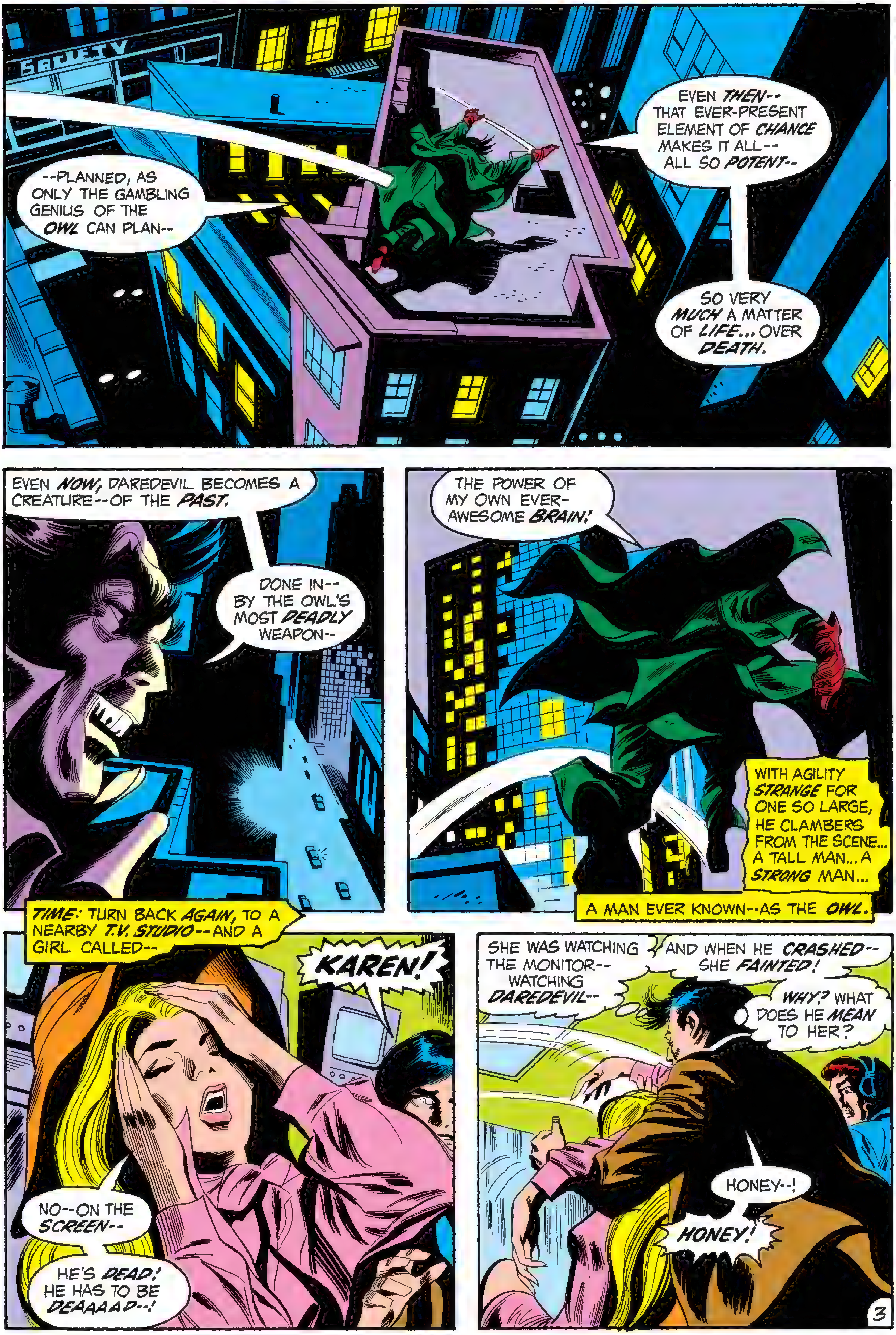
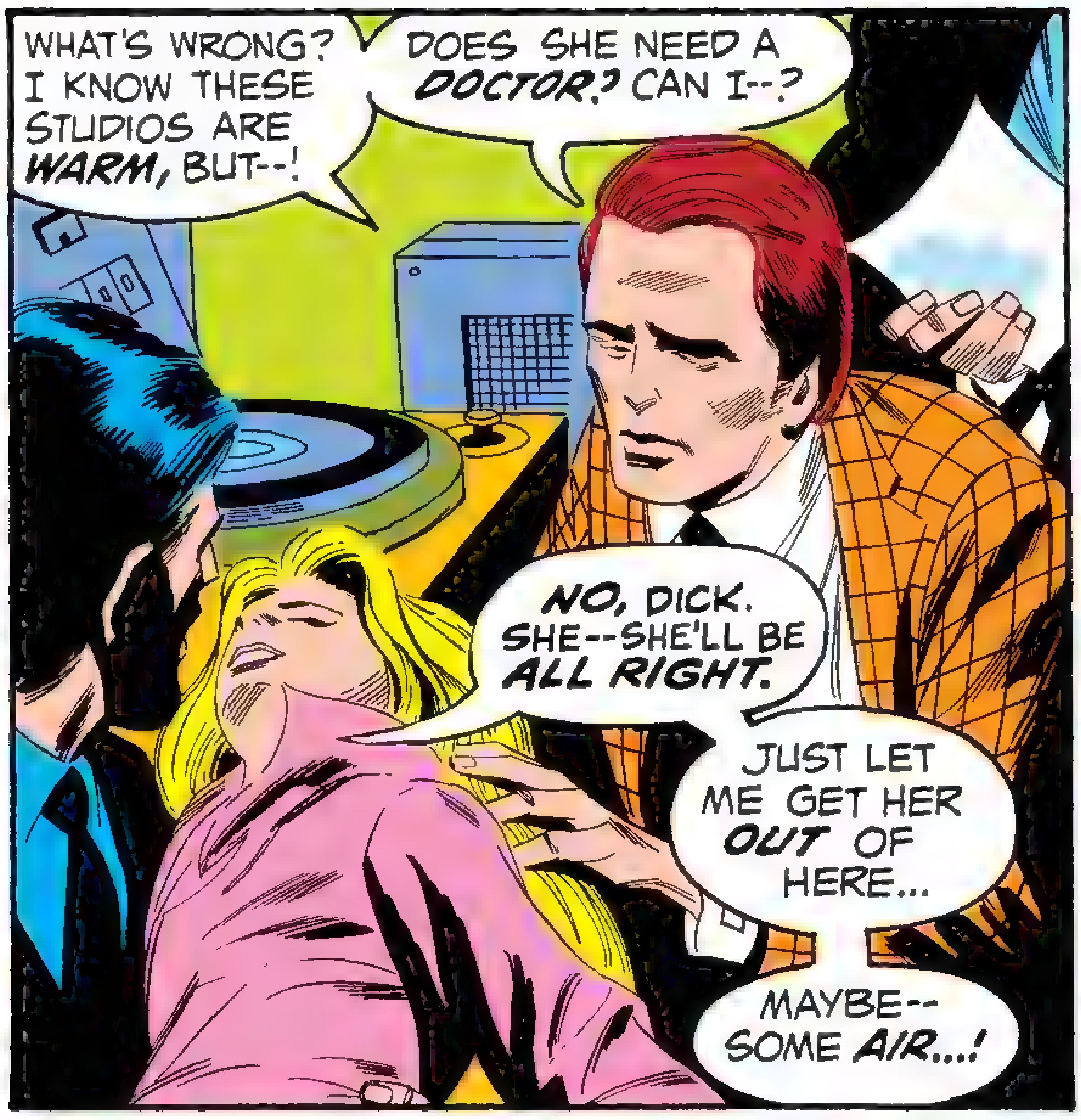
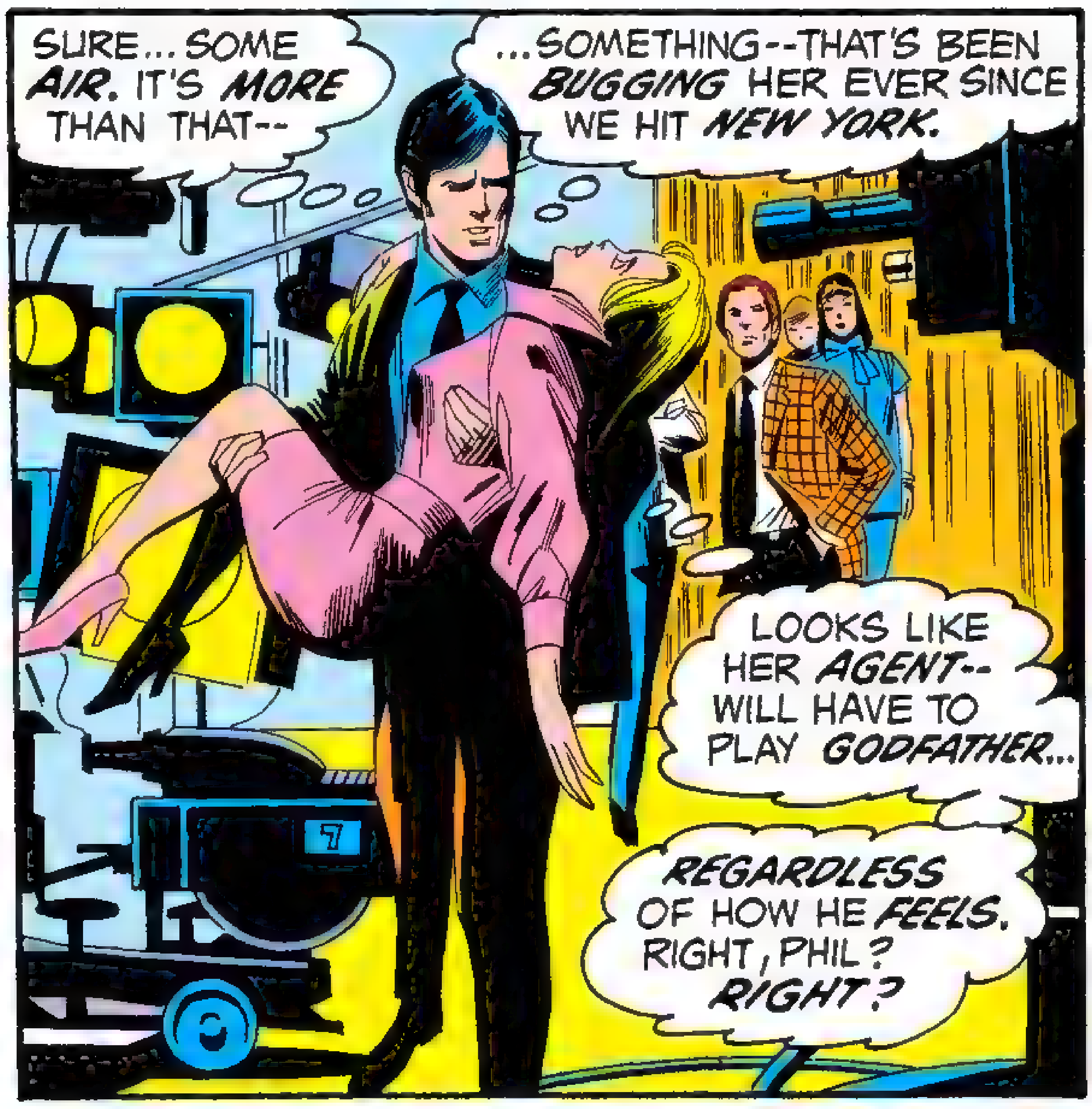

TIME: ONE SECOND UNDER...
PERHAPS IF I'D TRIED HARDER--TO UNDERSTAND HER--
TIME: TWO SECONDS UNDER...
...TO MAKE HER... UNDERSTAND ME--
WOULD IT HAVE MATTERED, MATTHEW? DOESN'T--IT ALL FOLLOW--
TIME: THREE SECONDS UNDER...
--SOME MASTER PLAN? SURE. EASY TO SAY NOW.
EASY TO SAY--WHEN YOU'LL NEVER--KNOW...!
TIME--ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD--
TIME--TO TURN BACK TO THAT MOMENT INSTANTS BEFORE--
--JUST AFTER THE OWL GLIDED FROM HIS DIVING SHIP--!
GONE!
EVEN WHEN PLANNED SO PERFECTLY--
EVEN WHEN ALL MOVES SO SMOOTHLY--


SECURITY
--PLANNED, AS ONLY THE GAMBLING GENIUS OF THE *OWL* CAN PLAN--
EVEN *THEN*-- THAT EVER-PRESENT ELEMENT OF *CHANCE* MAKES IT ALL-- ALL SO *POTENT*--
SO VERY *MUCH* A MATTER OF *LIFE*... OVER *DEATH*.
EVEN *NOW*, DAREDEVIL BECOMES A CREATURE--OF THE *PAST*.
DONE IN-- BY THE OWL'S MOST *DEADLY* WEAPON--
THE POWER OF MY OWN EVER-AWESOME *BRAIN*!
WITH AGILITY *STRANGE* FOR ONE SO LARGE, HE CLAMBERS FROM THE SCENE... A TALL MAN... A *STRONG* MAN...
A MAN EVER KNOWN--AS THE *OWL*.
TIME: TURN BACK *AGAIN*, TO A NEARBY *T.V. STUDIO*--AND A GIRL CALLED--
KAREN!
NO--ON THE *SCREEN*--
HE'S *DEAD*! HE HAS TO BE *DEAAAAD*--!
SHE WAS WATCHING THE MONITOR-- WATCHING *DAREDEVIL*--
AND WHEN HE *CRASHED*-- SHE *FAINTED*!
WHY? WHAT DOES HE *MEAN* TO HER?
HONEY--!
HONEY!


WHAT'S WRONG? I KNOW THESE STUDIOS ARE *WARM*, BUT--!
DOES SHE NEED A *DOCTOR?* CAN I--?
NO, DICK. SHE--SHE'LL BE *ALL RIGHT.*
JUST LET ME GET HER *OUT* OF HERE...
MAYBE--SOME *AIR*...!


SURE... SOME *AIR.* IT'S *MORE* THAN THAT--
...SOMETHING--THAT'S BEEN *BUGGING* HER EVER SINCE WE HIT *NEW YORK.*
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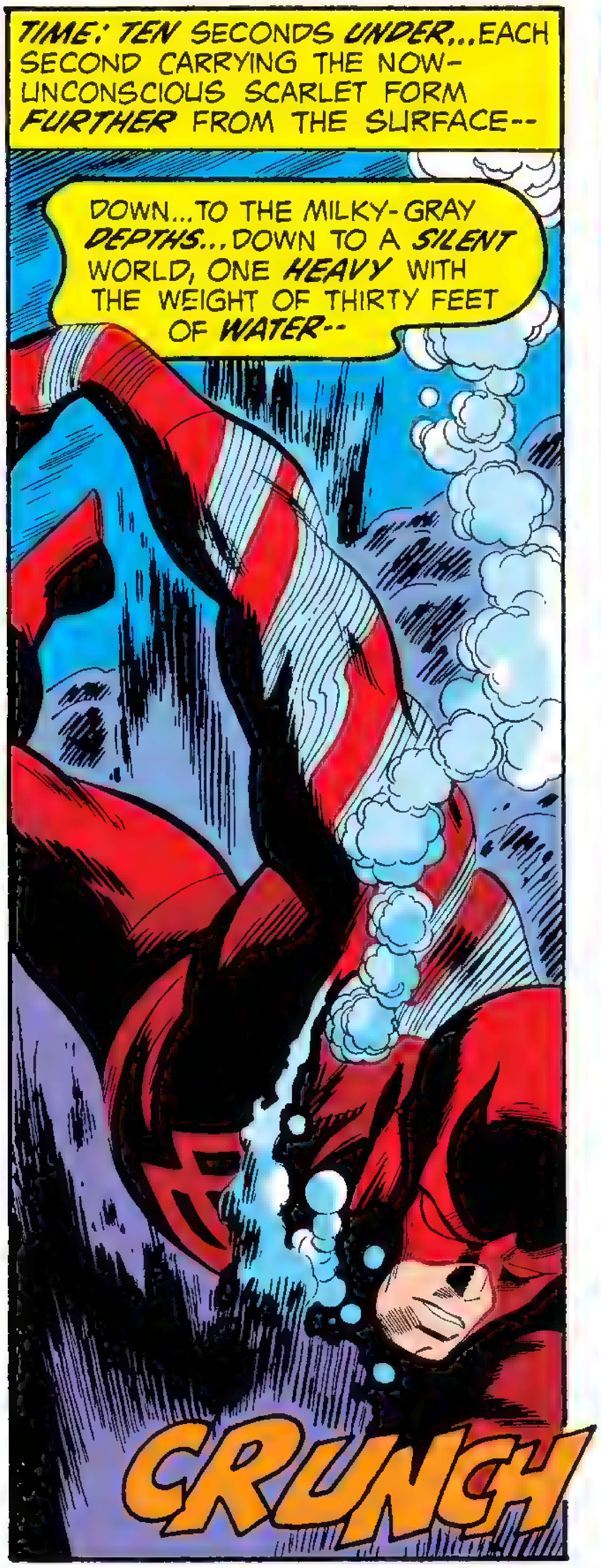
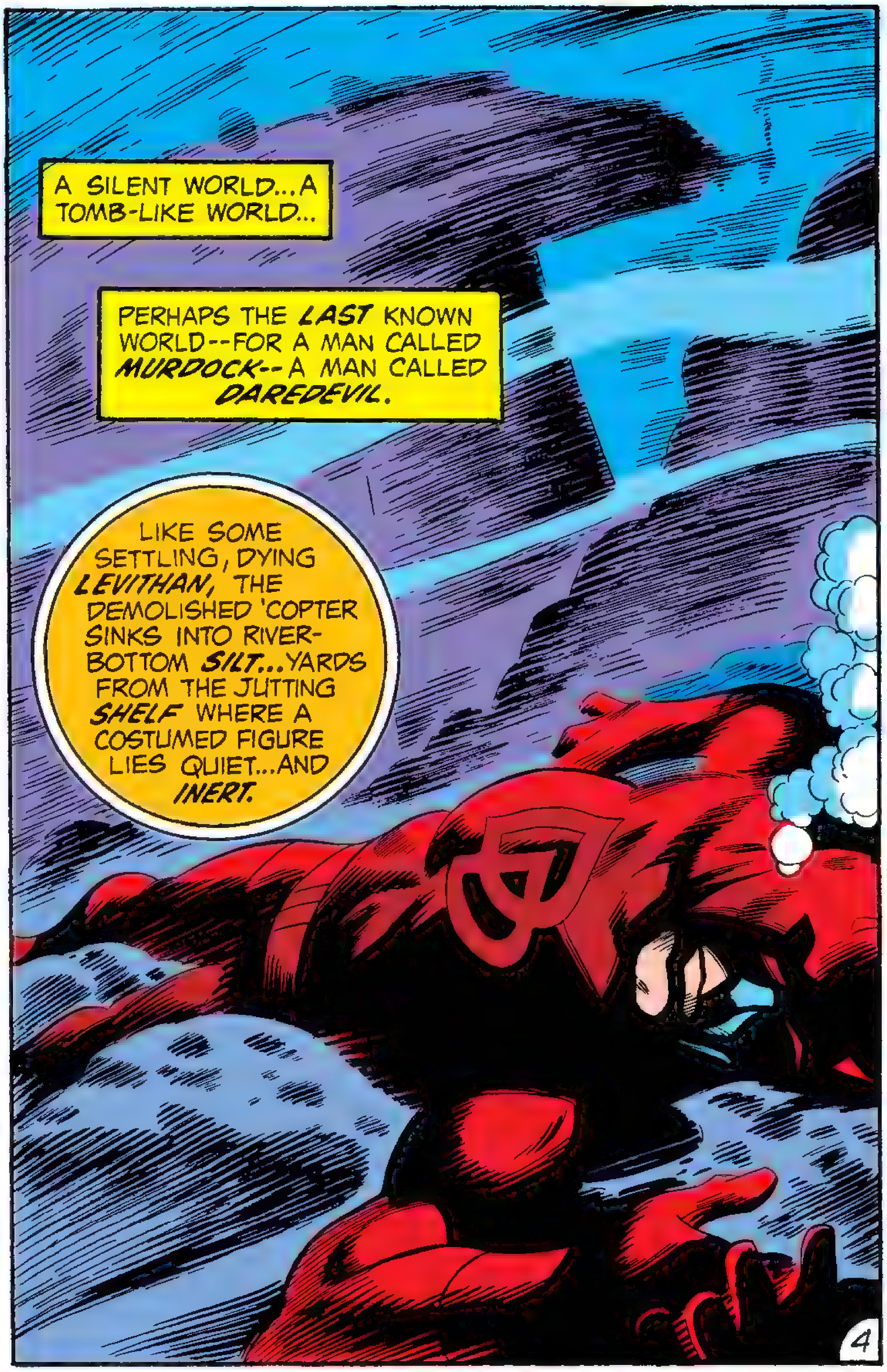
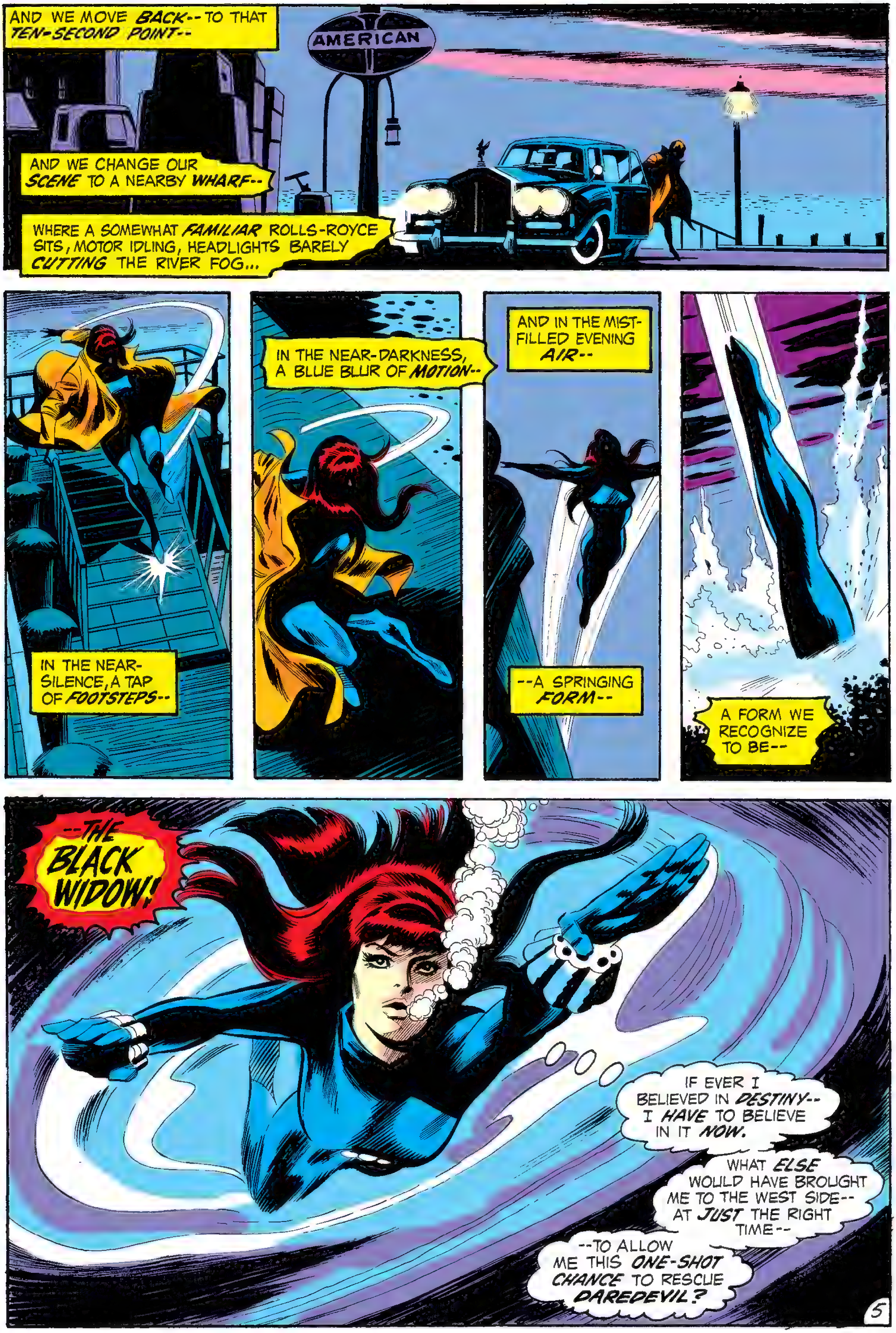
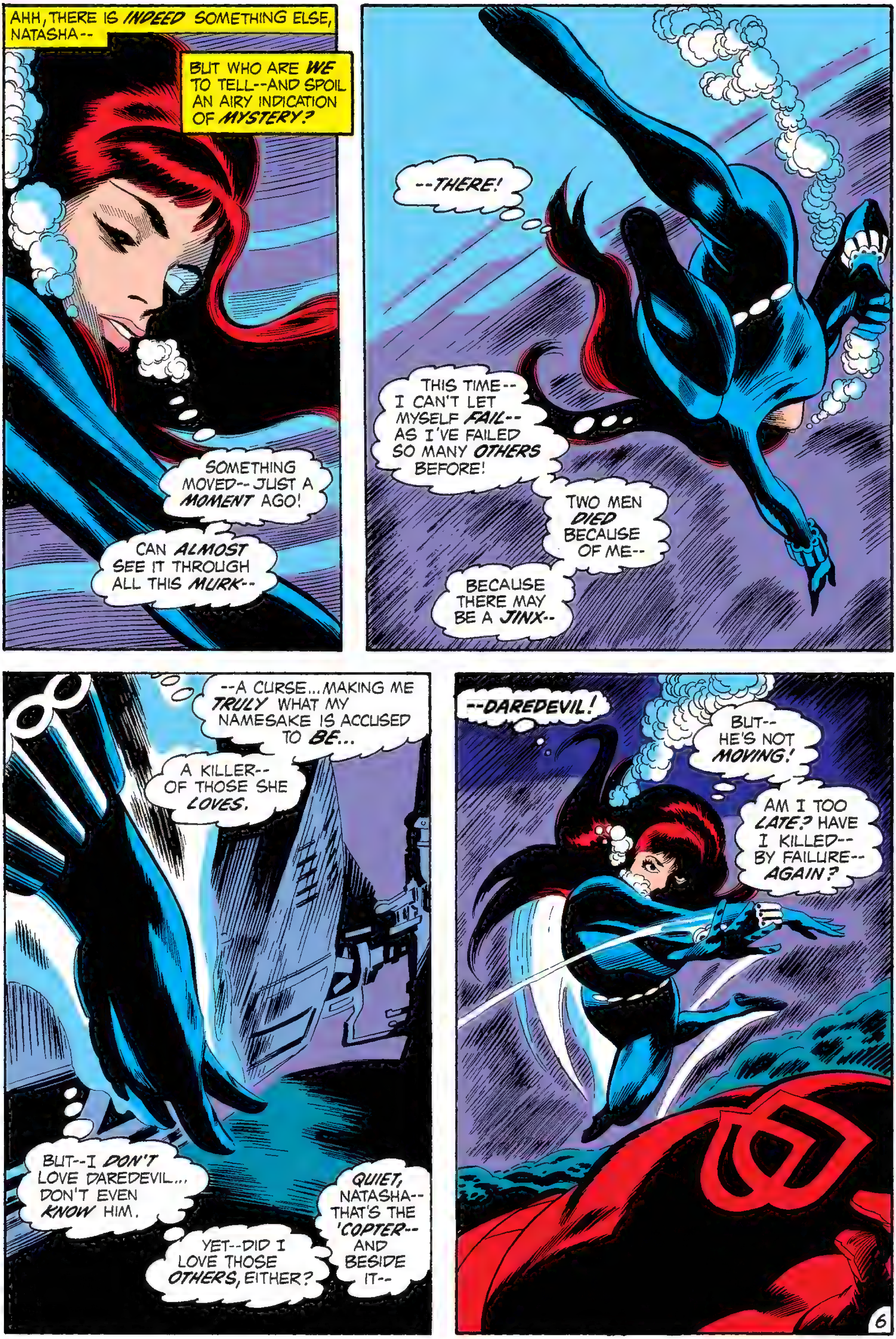
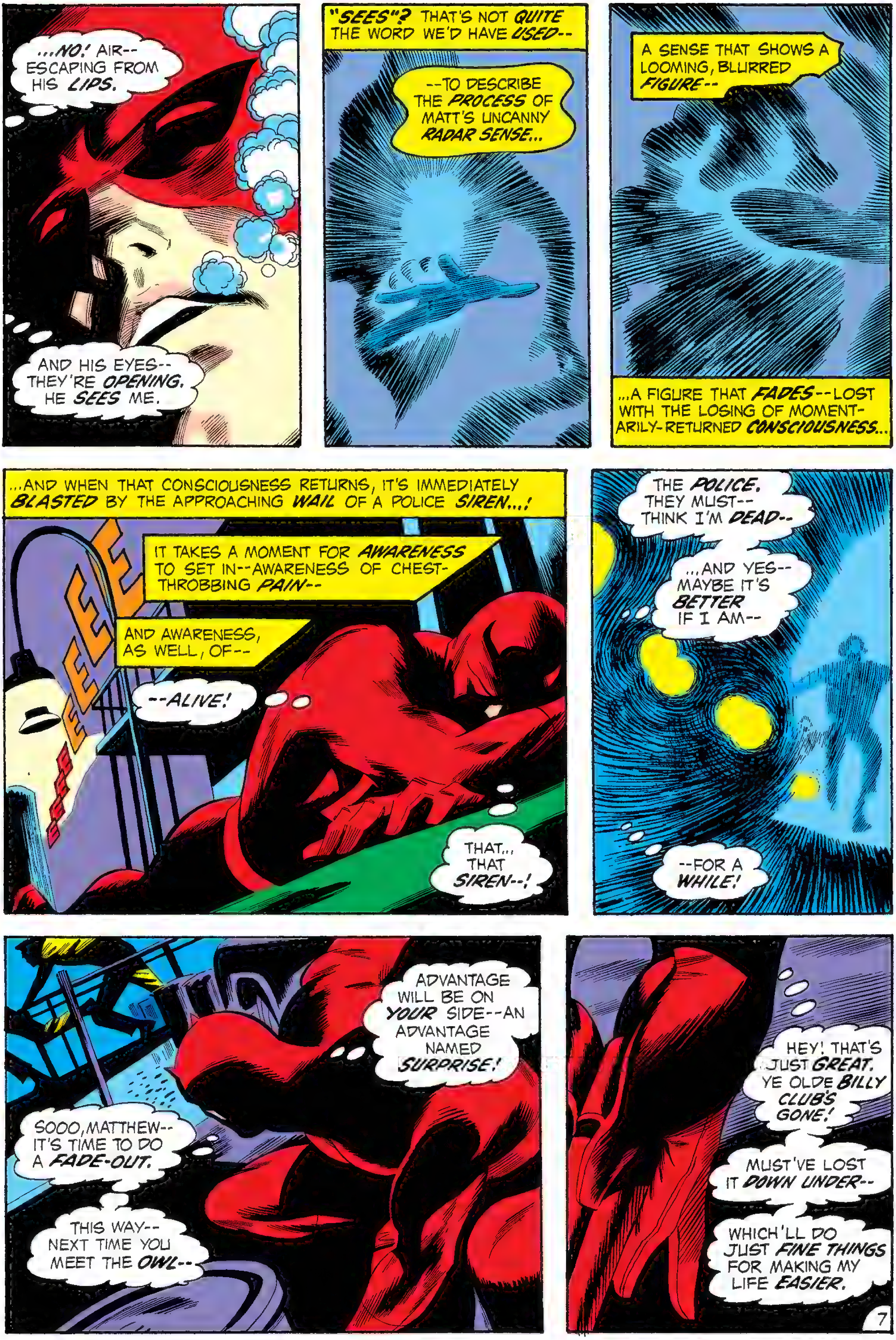
LOOKS LIKE HER *AGENT*--WILL HAVE TO PLAY *GODFATHER*...
REGARDLESS OF HOW HE *FEELS.* RIGHT, PHIL? *RIGHT?*

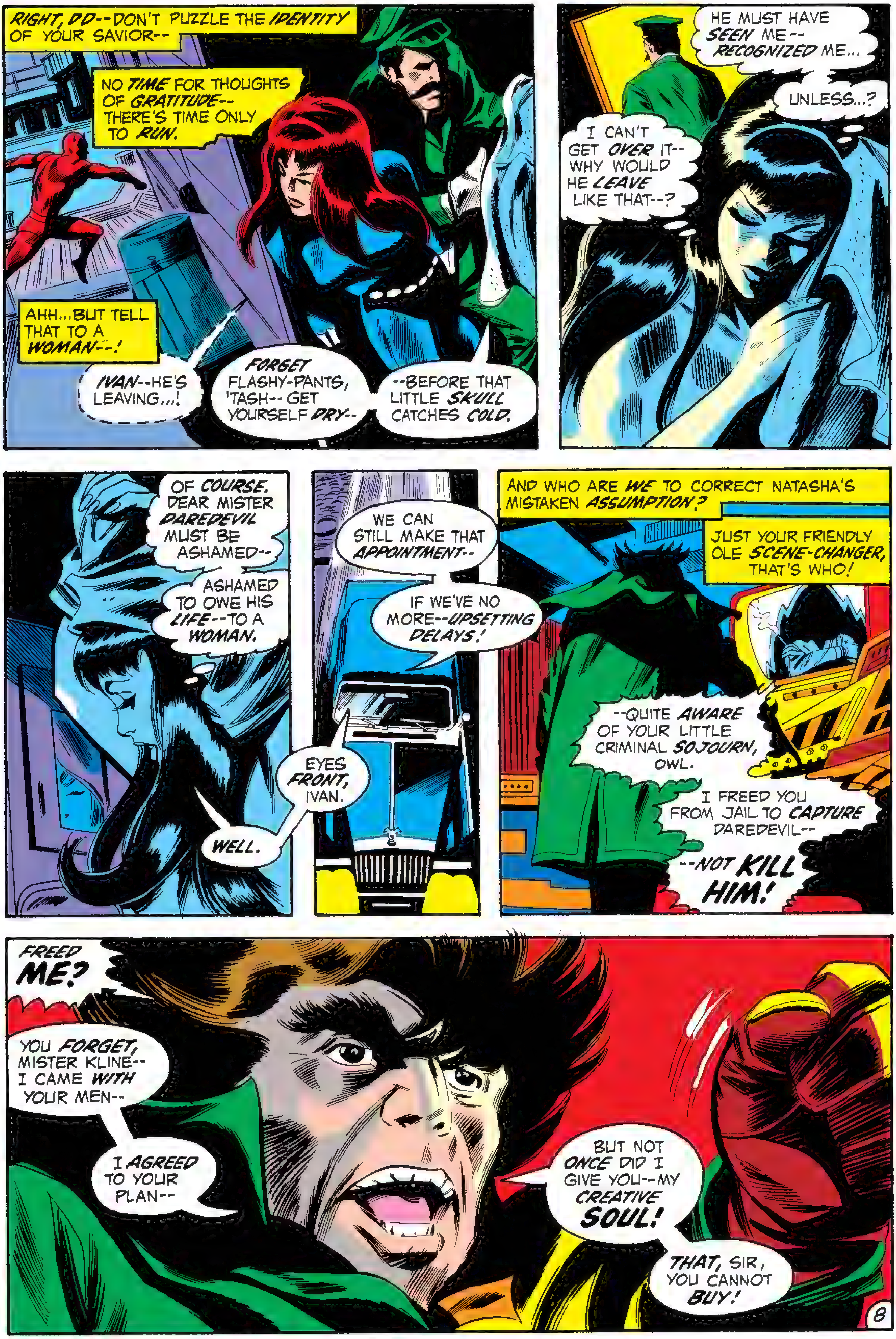

TIME: TEN SECONDS *UNDER*...EACH SECOND CARRYING THE NOW-UNCONSCIOUS SCARLET FORM *FURTHER* FROM THE SURFACE--
DOWN...TO THE MILKY-GRAY *DEPTHS*...DOWN TO A *SILENT* WORLD, ONE *HEAVY* WITH THE WEIGHT OF THIRTY FEET OF *WATER*--
CRUNCH

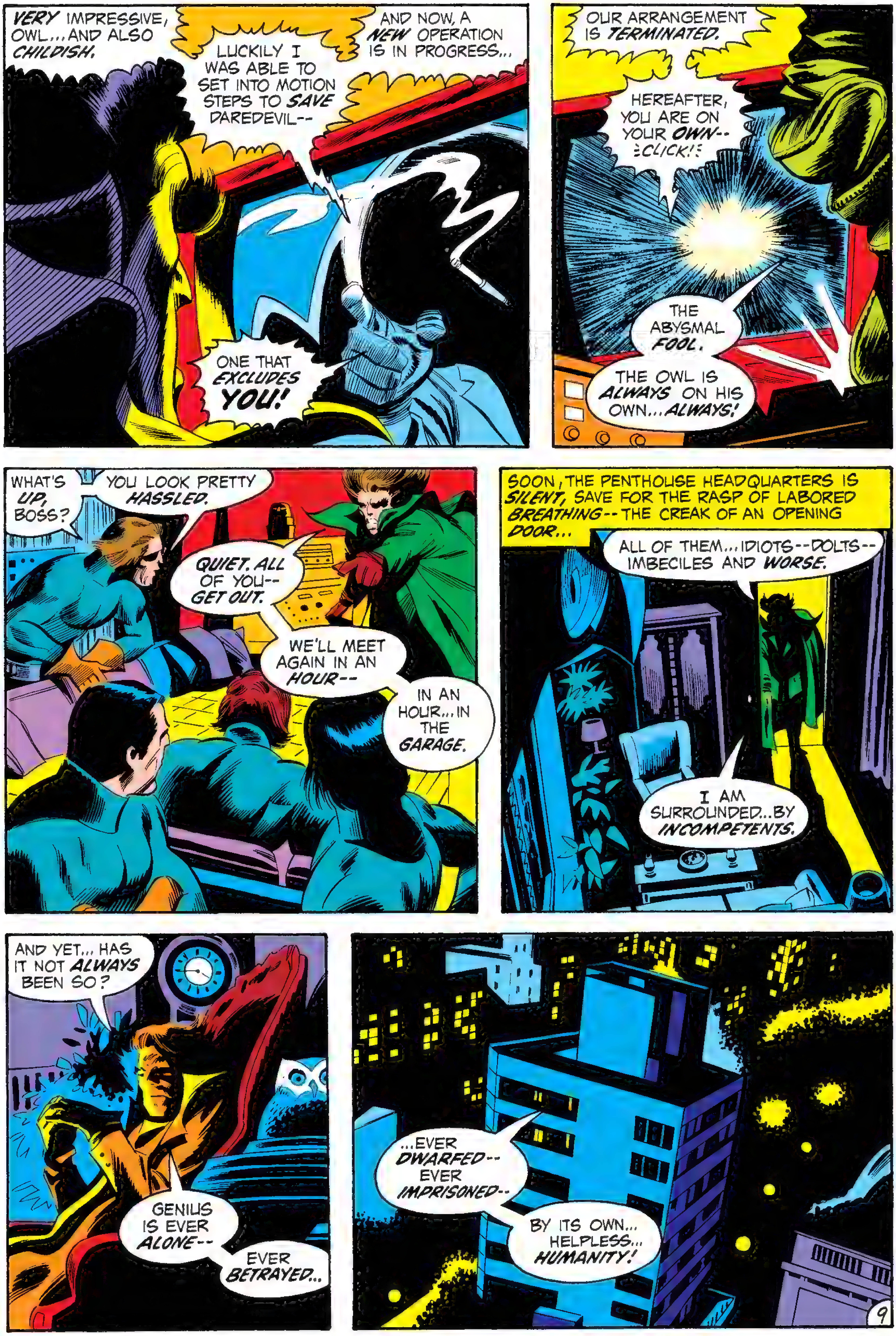

A SILENT WORLD...A TOMB-LIKE WORLD...
PERHAPS THE *LAST* KNOWN WORLD--FOR A MAN CALLED *MURDOCK*--A MAN CALLED *DAREDEVIL.*
LIKE SOME SETTLING, DYING *LEVITHAN,* THE DEMOLISHED 'COPTER SINKS INTO RIVER-BOTTOM *SILT*...YARDS FROM THE JUTTING *SHELF* WHERE A COSTUMED FIGURE LIES QUIET...AND *INERT.*

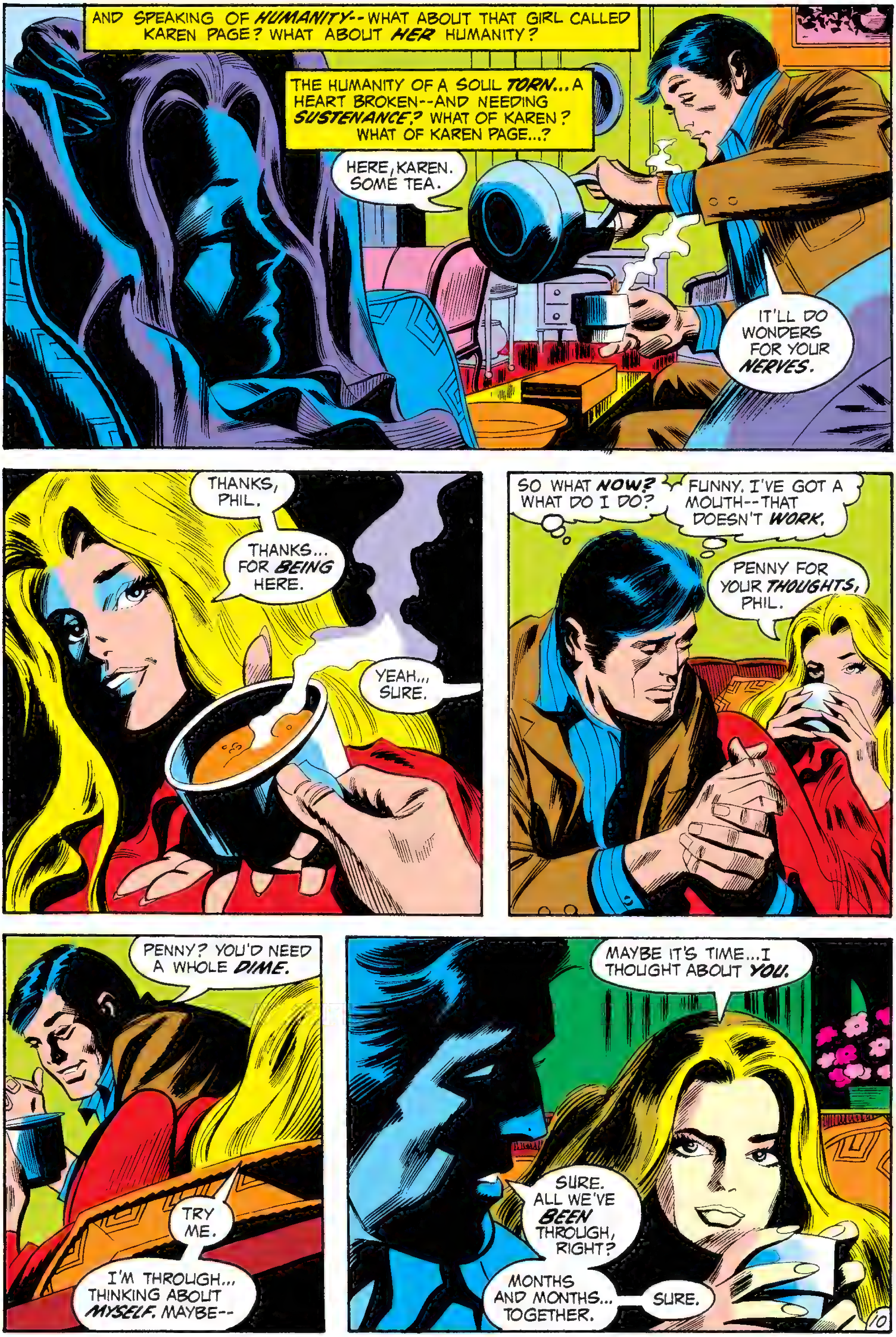

AND WE MOVE BACK-- TO THAT TEN-SECOND POINT--
AMERICAN
AND WE CHANGE OUR SCENE TO A NEARBY WHARF--
WHERE A SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR ROLLS-ROYCE SITS, MOTOR IDLING, HEADLIGHTS BARELY CUTTING THE RIVER FOG...
IN THE NEAR-SILENCE, A TAP OF FOOTSTEPS--
IN THE NEAR-DARKNESS, A BLUE BLUR OF MOTION--
AND IN THE MIST-FILLED EVENING AIR--
--A SPRINGING FORM--
A FORM WE RECOGNIZE TO BE--
--THE BLACK WIDOW!
IF EVER I BELIEVED IN DESTINY-- I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN IT NOW.
WHAT ELSE WOULD HAVE BROUGHT ME TO THE WEST SIDE-- AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME--
--TO ALLOW ME THIS ONE-SHOT CHANCE TO RESCUE DAREDEVIL?

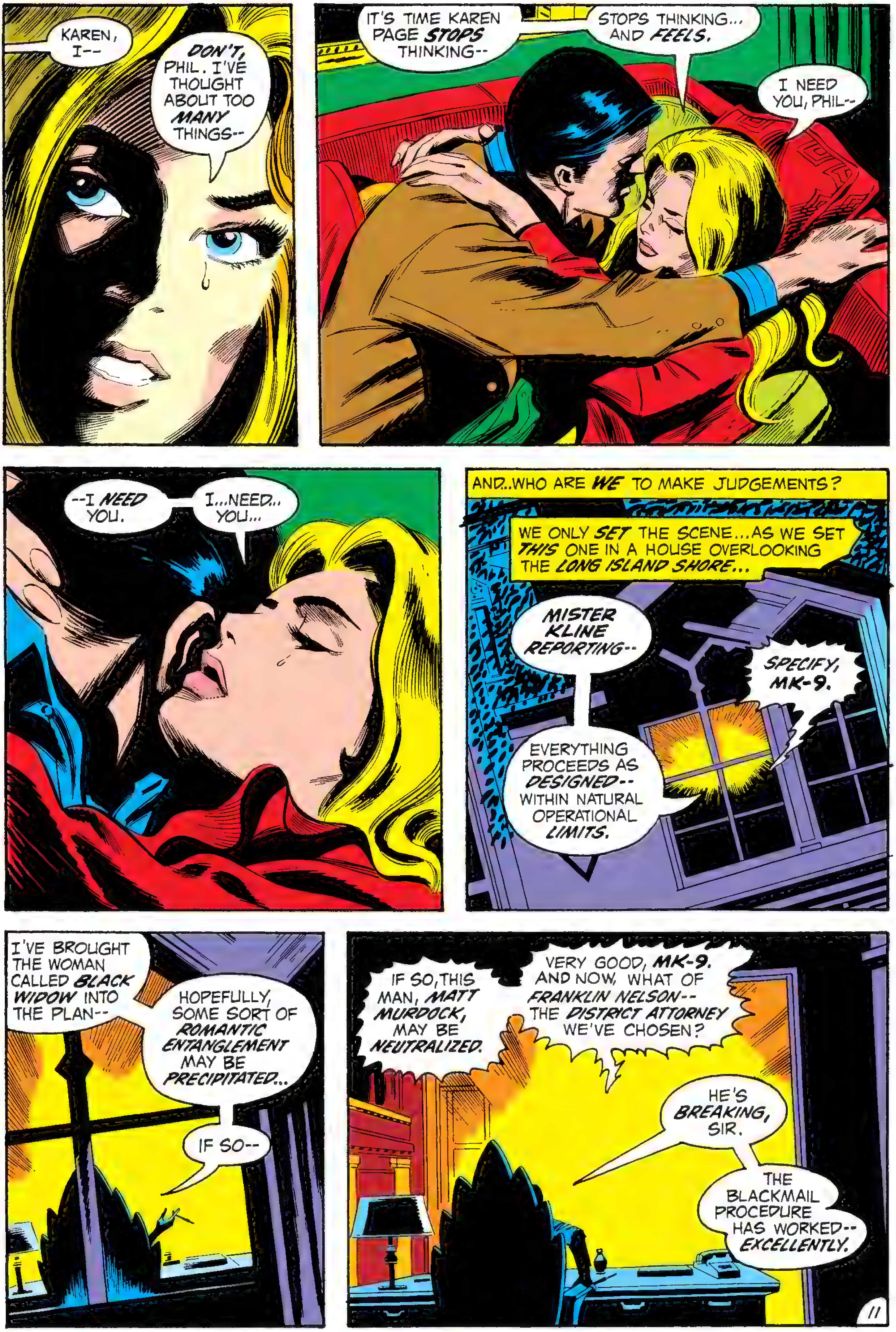

AHH, THERE IS *INDEED* SOMETHING ELSE, NATASHA--
BUT WHO ARE *WE* TO TELL--AND SPOIL AN AIRY INDICATION OF *MYSTERY?*
SOMETHING MOVED-- JUST A *MOMENT* AGO!
CAN *ALMOST* SEE IT THROUGH ALL THIS *MURK*--
--*THERE!*
THIS TIME-- I CAN'T LET MYSELF *FAIL*-- AS I'VE FAILED SO MANY *OTHERS* BEFORE!
TWO MEN *DIED* BECAUSE OF ME--
BECAUSE THERE MAY BE A *JINX*--
--A CURSE...MAKING ME *TRULY* WHAT MY NAMESAKE IS ACCUSED TO *BE*...
A KILLER-- OF THOSE SHE *LOVES*.
BUT--I *DON'T* LOVE DAREDEVIL... DON'T EVEN *KNOW* HIM.
YET--DID I LOVE THOSE *OTHERS*, EITHER?
QUIET, NATASHA-- THAT'S THE *'COPTER*-- AND BESIDE IT--
--*DAREDEVIL!*
BUT-- HE'S NOT *MOVING!*
AM I TOO *LATE?* HAVE I KILLED-- BY FAILURE-- *AGAIN?*

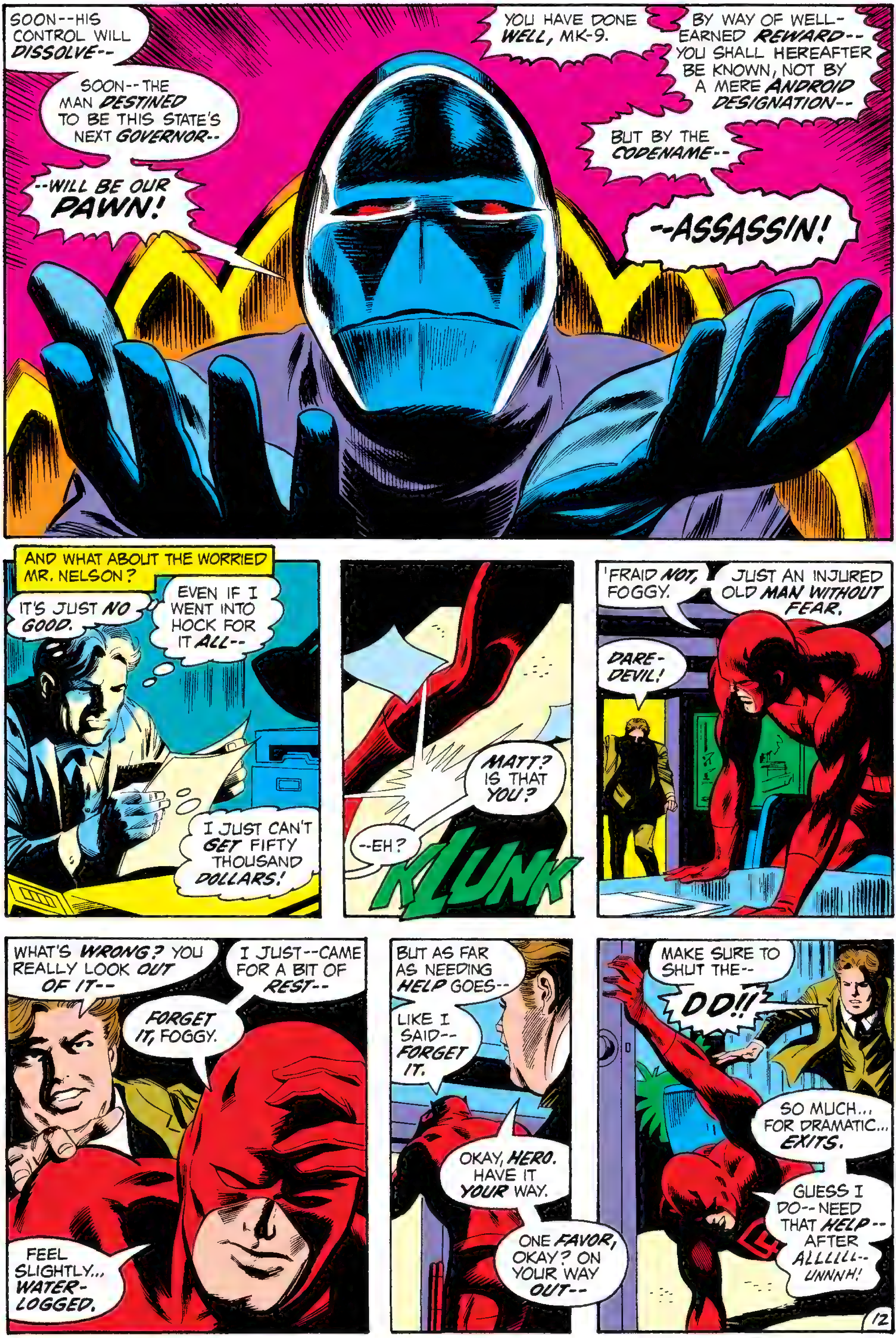

...NO! AIR--ESCAPING FROM HIS LIPS.
AND HIS EYES--THEY'RE OPENING. HE SEES ME.
"SEES"? THAT'S NOT QUITE THE WORD WE'D HAVE USED--
--TO DESCRIBE THE PROCESS OF MATT'S UNCANNY RADAR SENSE...
A SENSE THAT SHOWS A LOOMING, BLURRED FIGURE--
...A FIGURE THAT FADES--LOST WITH THE LOSING OF MOMENTARILY-RETURNED CONSCIOUSNESS...
...AND WHEN THAT CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS, IT'S IMMEDIATELY BLASTED BY THE APPROACHING WAIL OF A POLICE SIREN...!
EEEE
IT TAKES A MOMENT FOR AWARENESS TO SET IN--AWARENESS OF CHEST-THROBBING PAIN--
AND AWARENESS, AS WELL, OF--
--ALIVE!
THAT... THAT SIREN--!
THE POLICE. THEY MUST--THINK I'M DEAD--
...AND YES--MAYBE IT'S BETTER IF I AM--
--FOR A WHILE!
SOOO, MATTHEW--IT'S TIME TO DO A FADE-OUT.
THIS WAY--NEXT TIME YOU MEET THE OWL--
ADVANTAGE WILL BE ON YOUR SIDE--AN ADVANTAGE NAMED SURPRISE!
HEY! THAT'S JUST GREAT. YE OLDE BILLY CLUB'S GONE!
MUST'VE LOST IT DOWN UNDER--
WHICH'LL DO JUST FINE THINGS FOR MAKING MY LIFE EASIER.

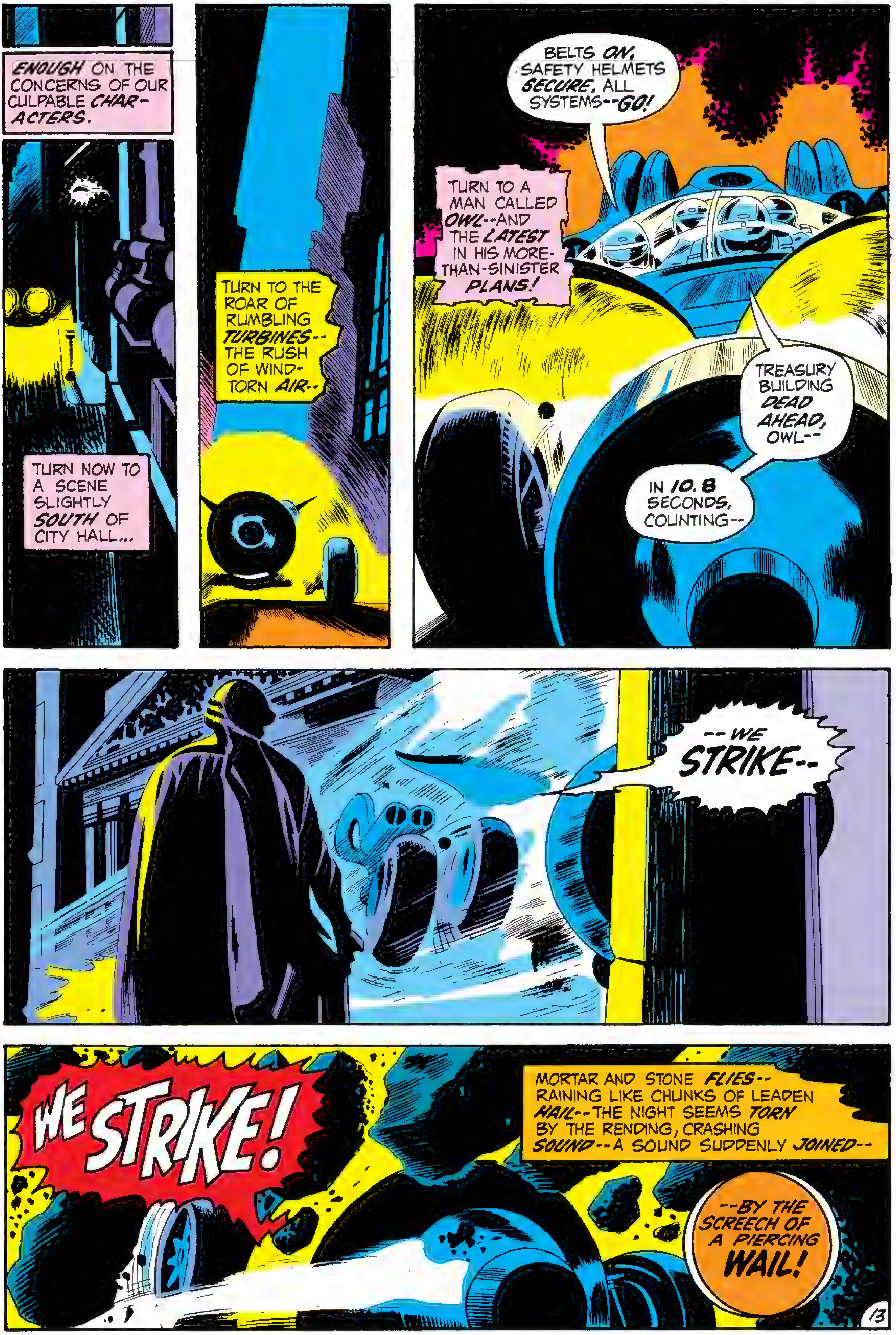

RIGHT, DD--DON'T PUZZLE THE IDENTITY OF YOUR SAVIOR--
NO TIME FOR THOUGHTS OF GRATITUDE-- THERE'S TIME ONLY TO RUN.
AHH...BUT TELL THAT TO A WOMAN--!
IVAN--HE'S LEAVING...!
FORGET FLASHY-PANTS, 'TASH-- GET YOURSELF DRY--
--BEFORE THAT LITTLE SKULL CATCHES COLD.
HE MUST HAVE SEEN ME-- RECOGNIZED ME...
UNLESS...?
I CAN'T GET OVER IT-- WHY WOULD HE LEAVE LIKE THAT--?
OF COURSE, DEAR MISTER DAREDEVIL MUST BE ASHAMED--
ASHAMED TO OWE HIS LIFE--TO A WOMAN.
WELL.
WE CAN STILL MAKE THAT APPOINTMENT--
IF WE'VE NO MORE--UPSETTING DELAYS!
EYES FRONT, IVAN.
AND WHO ARE WE TO CORRECT NATASHA'S MISTAKEN ASSUMPTION?
JUST YOUR FRIENDLY OLE SCENE-CHANGER, THAT'S WHO!
--QUITE AWARE OF YOUR LITTLE CRIMINAL SOJOURN, OWL.
I FREED YOU FROM JAIL TO CAPTURE OLE DAREDEVIL--
--NOT KILL HIM!
FREED ME?
YOU FORGET, MISTER KLINE-- I CAME WITH YOUR MEN--
I AGREED TO YOUR PLAN--
BUT NOT ONCE DID I GIVE YOU--MY CREATIVE SOUL!
THAT, SIR, YOU CANNOT BUY!

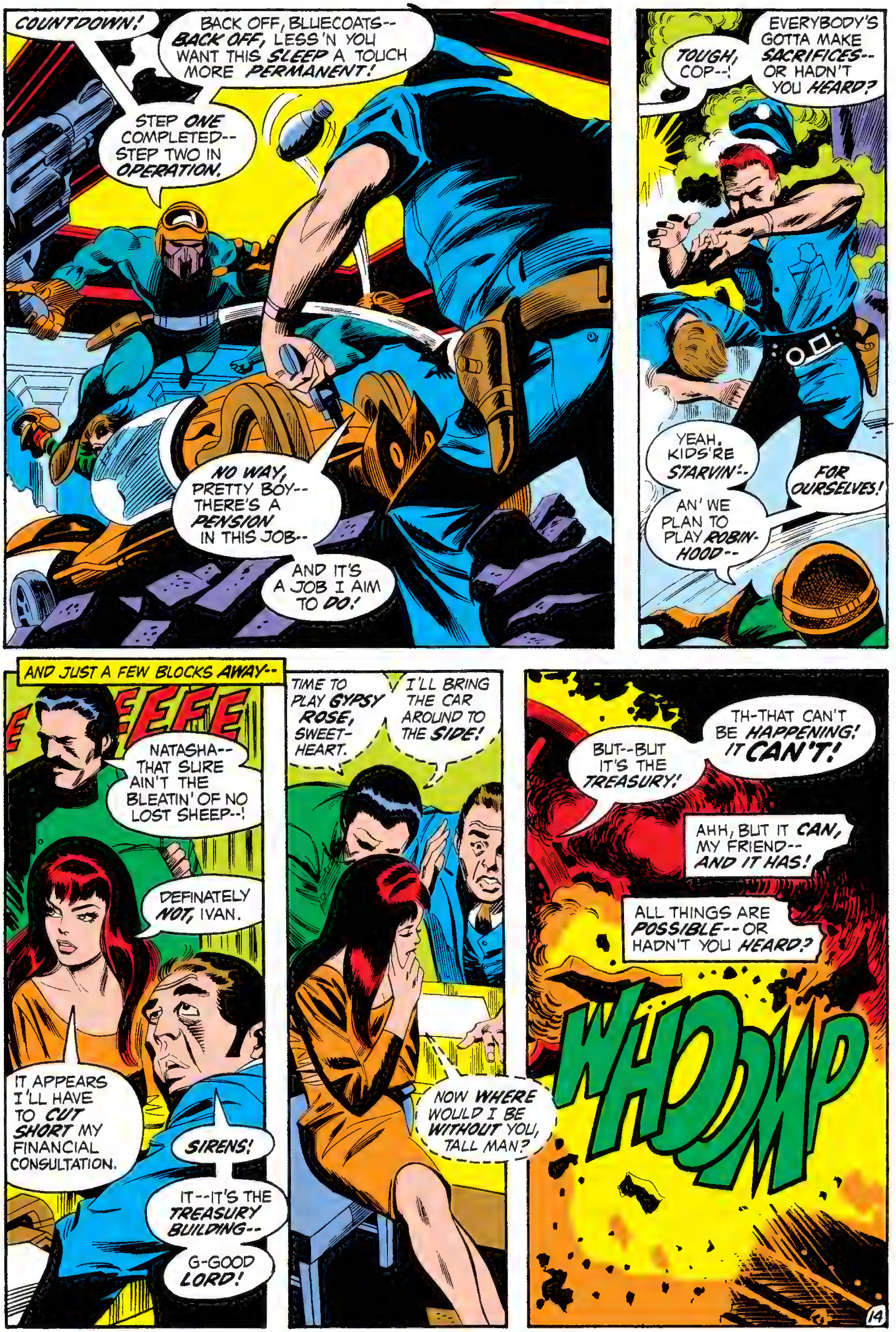

VERY IMPRESSIVE, OWL... AND ALSO CHILDISH.
LUCKILY I WAS ABLE TO SET INTO MOTION STEPS TO SAVE DAREDEVIL--
AND NOW, A NEW OPERATION IS IN PROGRESS...
ONE THAT EXCLUDES YOU!
OUR ARRANGEMENT IS TERMINATED.
HEREAFTER, YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN-- ⋮CLICK!⋮
THE ABYSMAL FOOL.
THE OWL IS ALWAYS ON HIS OWN... ALWAYS!
WHAT'S UP, BOSS?
YOU LOOK PRETTY HASSLED.
QUIET. ALL OF YOU-- GET OUT.
WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN AN HOUR--
IN AN HOUR... IN THE GARAGE.
SOON, THE PENTHOUSE HEADQUARTERS IS SILENT, SAVE FOR THE RASP OF LABORED BREATHING-- THE CREAK OF AN OPENING DOOR...
ALL OF THEM... IDIOTS--DOLTS-- IMBECILES AND WORSE.
I AM SURROUNDED...BY INCOMPETENTS.
AND YET... HAS IT NOT ALWAYS BEEN SO?
GENIUS IS EVER ALONE--
EVER BETRAYED...
...EVER DWARFED-- EVER IMPRISONED--
BY ITS OWN... HELPLESS... HUMANITY!

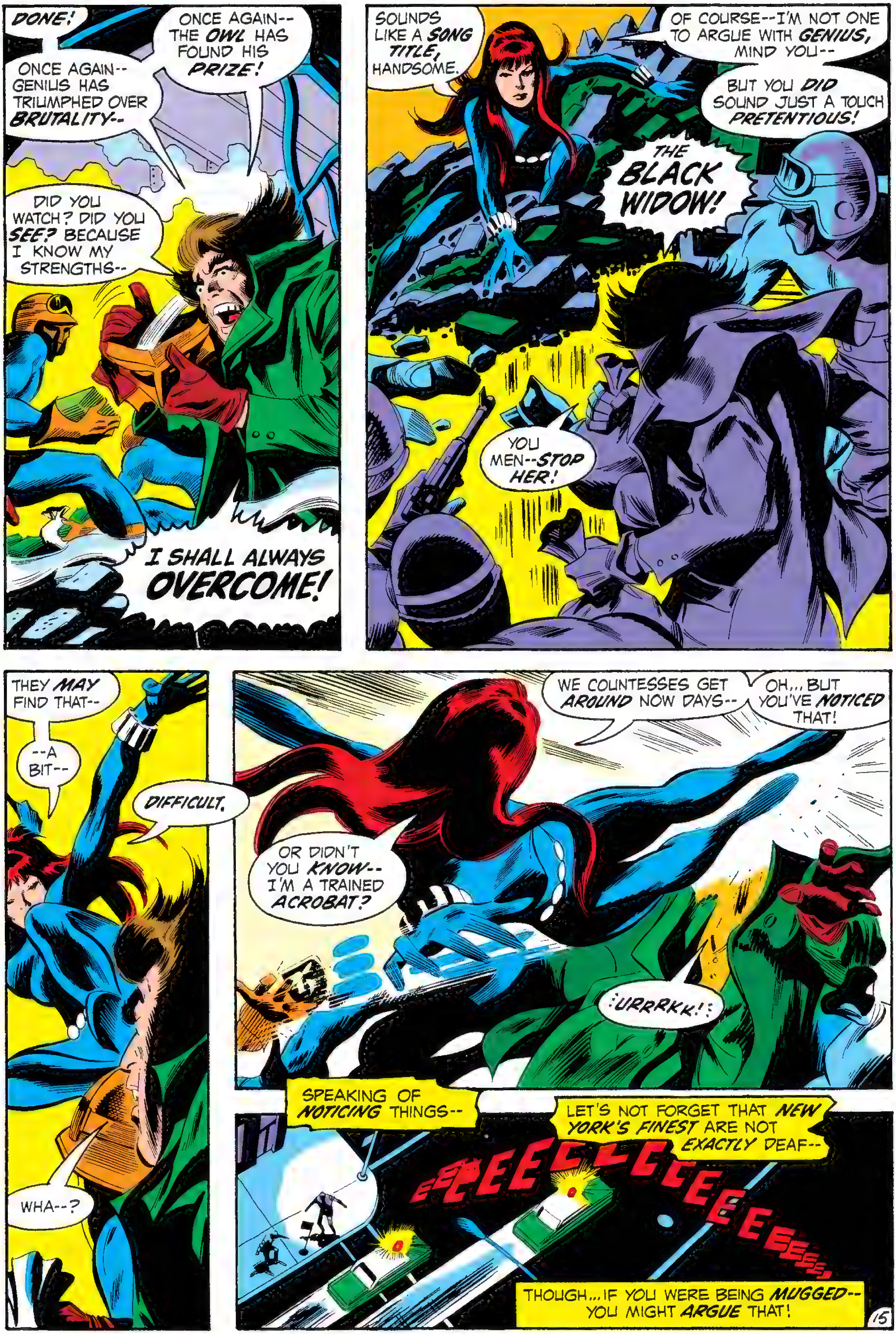

AND SPEAKING OF *HUMANITY*-- WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL CALLED KAREN PAGE? WHAT ABOUT *HER* HUMANITY?
THE HUMANITY OF A SOUL *TORN*... A HEART BROKEN--AND NEEDING *SUSTENANCE*? WHAT OF KAREN? WHAT OF KAREN PAGE...?
HERE, KAREN. SOME TEA.
IT'LL DO WONDERS FOR YOUR *NERVES*.
THANKS, PHIL.
THANKS... FOR *BEING* HERE.
YEAH... SURE.
SO WHAT *NOW*? WHAT DO I DO?
FUNNY. I'VE GOT A MOUTH--THAT DOESN'T *WORK*.
PENNY FOR YOUR *THOUGHTS*, PHIL.
PENNY? YOU'D NEED A WHOLE *DIME*.
TRY ME.
I'M THROUGH... THINKING ABOUT *MYSELF*. MAYBE--
MAYBE IT'S TIME...I THOUGHT ABOUT *YOU*.
SURE. ALL WE'VE *BEEN* THROUGH, RIGHT?
MONTHS AND MONTHS... TOGETHER.
SURE.

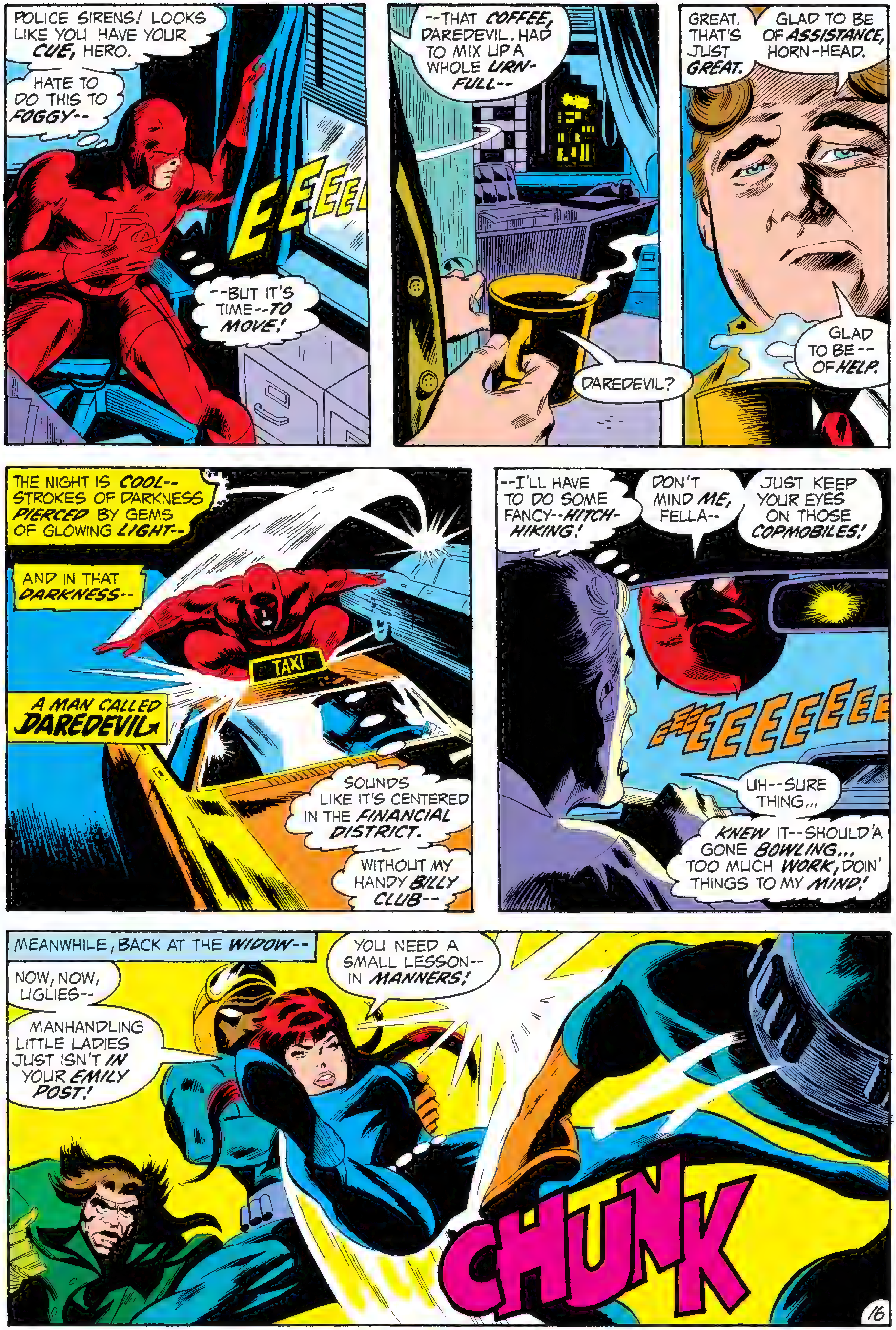

KAREN, I--
DON'T, PHIL. I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT TOO MANY THINGS--
IT'S TIME KAREN PAGE STOPS THINKING--
STOPS THINKING... AND FEELS.
I NEED YOU, PHIL--
--I NEED YOU.
I...NEED... YOU...
AND..WHO ARE WE TO MAKE JUDGEMENTS?
WE ONLY SET THE SCENE...AS WE SET THIS ONE IN A HOUSE OVERLOOKING THE LONG ISLAND SHORE...
MISTER KLINE REPORTING--
SPECIFY, MK-9.
EVERYTHING PROCEEDS AS DESIGNED-- WITHIN NATURAL OPERATIONAL LIMITS.
I'VE BROUGHT THE WOMAN CALLED BLACK WIDOW INTO THE PLAN--
HOPEFULLY, SOME SORT OF ROMANTIC ENTANGLEMENT MAY BE PRECIPITATED...
IF SO--
IF SO, THIS MAN, MATT MURDOCK, MAY BE NEUTRALIZED.
VERY GOOD, MK-9. AND NOW, WHAT OF FRANKLIN NELSON-- THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WE'VE CHOSEN?
HE'S BREAKING, SIR.
THE BLACKMAIL PROCEDURE HAS WORKED-- EXCELLENTLY.

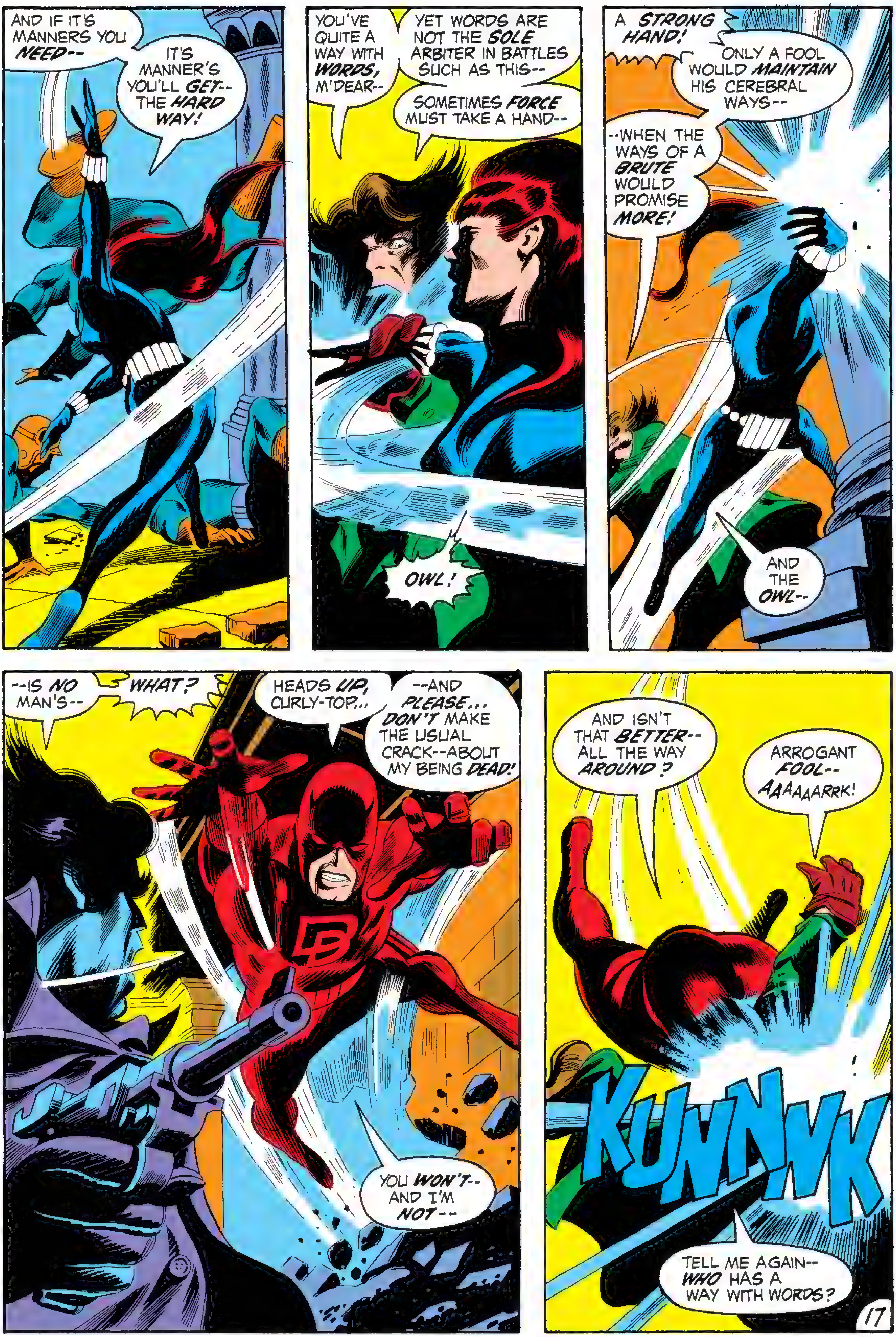

SOON--HIS CONTROL WILL *DISSOLVE*--
SOON--THE MAN *DESTINED* TO BE THIS STATE'S NEXT *GOVERNOR*--
--*WILL BE OUR PAWN!*
YOU HAVE DONE *WELL*, MK-9.
BY WAY OF WELL-EARNED *REWARD*--YOU SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN, NOT BY A MERE *ANDROID DESIGNATION*--
BUT BY THE *CODENAME*--
--*ASSASSIN!*
AND WHAT ABOUT THE WORRIED MR. NELSON?
IT'S JUST *NO GOOD.*
EVEN IF I WENT INTO HOCK FOR IT *ALL*--
I JUST CAN'T *GET* FIFTY THOUSAND *DOLLARS!*
MATT? IS THAT *YOU?*
--EH?
KLUNK
'FRAID *NOT*, FOGGY.
JUST AN INJURED OLD *MAN WITHOUT FEAR.*
DARE-DEVIL!
WHAT'S *WRONG?* YOU REALLY LOOK *OUT OF IT*--
I JUST--CAME FOR A BIT OF *REST*--
FORGET IT, FOGGY.
FEEL SLIGHTLY... *WATER-LOGGED.*
BUT AS FAR AS NEEDING *HELP* GOES--
LIKE I SAID--*FORGET IT.*
OKAY, *HERO.* HAVE IT *YOUR* WAY.
ONE *FAVOR*, OKAY? ON YOUR WAY *OUT*--
MAKE SURE TO SHUT THE--
DD!!
SO MUCH... FOR DRAMATIC... *EXITS.*
GUESS I DO--NEED THAT *HELP*--AFTER *ALLLLLL*--*UNNNH!*

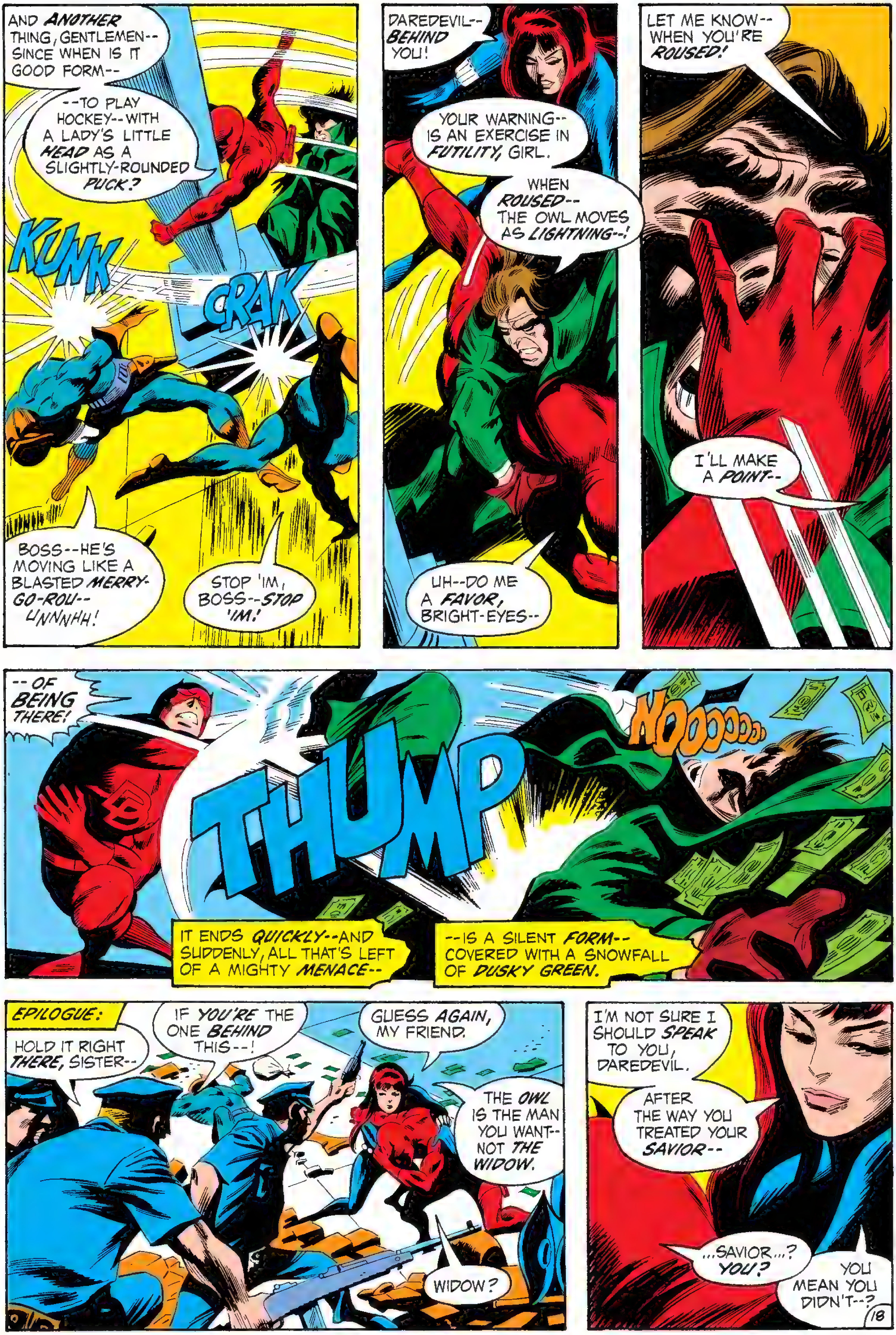

ENOUGH ON THE CONCERNS OF OUR CULPABLE CHARACTERS.
TURN NOW TO A SCENE SLIGHTLY SOUTH OF CITY HALL...
TURN TO THE ROAR OF RUMBLING TURBINES-- THE RUSH OF WIND-TORN AIR--
TURN TO A MAN CALLED OWL--AND THE LATEST IN HIS MORE-THAN-SINISTER PLANS!
BELTS ON, SAFETY HELMETS SECURE, ALL SYSTEMS--GO!
TREASURY BUILDING DEAD AHEAD, OWL--
IN 10.8 SECONDS, COUNTING--
--WE STRIKE--
WE STRIKE!
MORTAR AND STONE FLIES--RAINING LIKE CHUNKS OF LEADEN HAIL--THE NIGHT SEEMS TORN BY THE RENDING, CRASHING SOUND--A SOUND SUDDENLY JOINED--
--BY THE SCREECH OF A PIERCING WAIL!

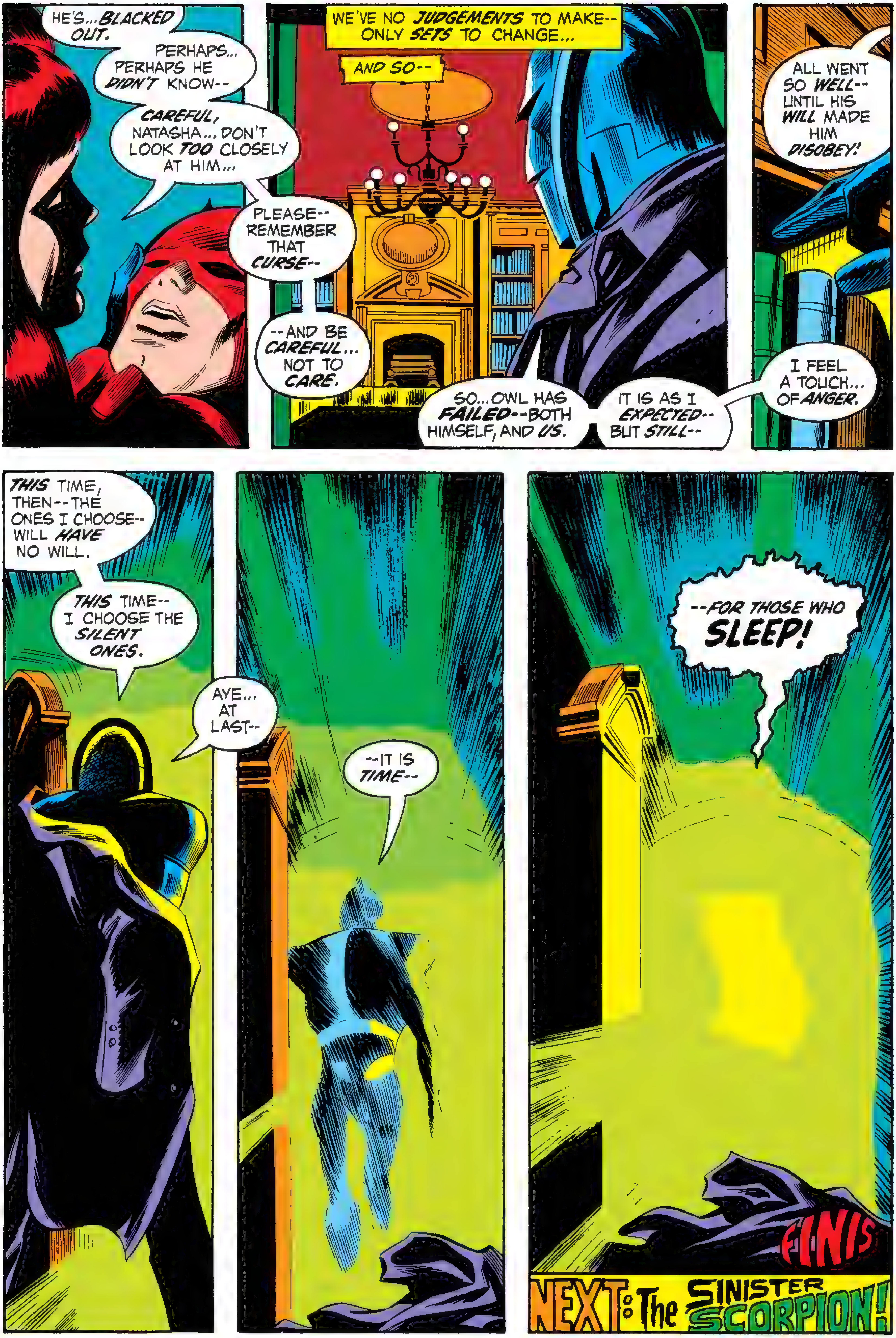

COUNTDOWN!
BACK OFF, BLUECOATS-- BACK OFF, LESS'N YOU WANT THIS SLEEP A TOUCH MORE PERMANENT!
STEP ONE COMPLETED-- STEP TWO IN OPERATION.
NO WAY, PRETTY BOY-- THERE'S A PENSION IN THIS JOB--
AND IT'S A JOB I AIM TO DO!
TOUGH, COP--!
EVERYBODY'S GOTTA MAKE SACRIFICES-- OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?
YEAH. KIDS'RE STARVIN'--
AN' WE PLAN TO PLAY ROBIN-HOOD--
FOR OURSELVES!
AND JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY--
EEEEE
NATASHA-- THAT SURE AIN'T THE BLEATIN' OF NO LOST SHEEP--!
DEFINATELY NOT, IVAN.
IT APPEARS I'LL HAVE TO CUT SHORT MY FINANCIAL CONSULTATION.
SIRENS!
IT--IT'S THE TREASURY BUILDING--
G-GOOD LORD!
TIME TO PLAY GYPSY ROSE, SWEETHEART.
I'LL BRING THE CAR AROUND TO THE SIDE!
NOW WHERE WOULD I BE WITHOUT YOU, TALL MAN?
BUT--BUT IT'S THE TREASURY!
TH-THAT CAN'T BE HAPPENING! IT CAN'T!
AHH, BUT IT CAN, MY FRIEND-- AND IT HAS!
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE--OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?
WHOOMP


DONE!
ONCE AGAIN-- THE OWL HAS FOUND HIS PRIZE!
ONCE AGAIN-- GENIUS HAS TRIUMPHED OVER BRUTALITY--
DID YOU WATCH? DID YOU SEE? BECAUSE I KNOW MY STRENGTHS--
I SHALL ALWAYS OVERCOME!
SOUNDS LIKE A SONG TITLE, HANDSOME.
OF COURSE--I'M NOT ONE TO ARGUE WITH GENIUS, MIND YOU--
BUT YOU DID SOUND JUST A TOUCH PRETENTIOUS!
THE BLACK WIDOW!
YOU MEN--STOP HER!
THEY MAY FIND THAT--
--A BIT--
DIFFICULT.
WHA--?
WE COUNTESSES GET AROUND NOW DAYS--
OH... BUT YOU'VE NOTICED THAT!
OR DIDN'T YOU KNOW-- I'M A TRAINED ACROBAT?
URRRKK!
SPEAKING OF NOTICING THINGS--
LET'S NOT FORGET THAT NEW YORK'S FINEST ARE NOT EXACTLY DEAF--
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
THOUGH... IF YOU WERE BEING MUGGED-- YOU MIGHT ARGUE THAT!


POLICE SIRENS! LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE YOUR *CUE,* HERO.
HATE TO DO THIS TO *FOGGY*--
EEEEE
--BUT IT'S TIME--*TO MOVE!*
--THAT *COFFEE,* DAREDEVIL. HAD TO MIX UP A WHOLE *URN-FULL*--
DAREDEVIL?
GREAT. THAT'S JUST *GREAT.*
GLAD TO BE OF *ASSISTANCE,* HORN-HEAD.
GLAD TO BE--OF *HELP.*
THE NIGHT IS *COOL*--STROKES OF DARKNESS *PIERCED* BY GEMS OF GLOWING *LIGHT*--
AND IN THAT *DARKNESS*--
A MAN CALLED DAREDEVIL
TAXI
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S CENTERED IN THE *FINANCIAL DISTRICT.*
WITHOUT MY HANDY *BILLY CLUB*--
--I'LL HAVE TO DO SOME FANCY--*HITCH-HIKING!*
DON'T MIND *ME,* FELLA--
JUST KEEP YOUR EYES ON THOSE *COPMOBILES!*
EEEEEEEEEE
UH--SURE THING...
KNEW IT--SHOULD'A GONE *BOWLING...* TOO MUCH *WORK,* DOIN' THINGS TO MY *MIND!*
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE *WIDOW*--
NOW, NOW, UGLIES--
MANHANDLING LITTLE LADIES JUST ISN'T *IN* YOUR *EMILY POST!*
YOU NEED A SMALL LESSON--IN *MANNERS!*
CHUNK

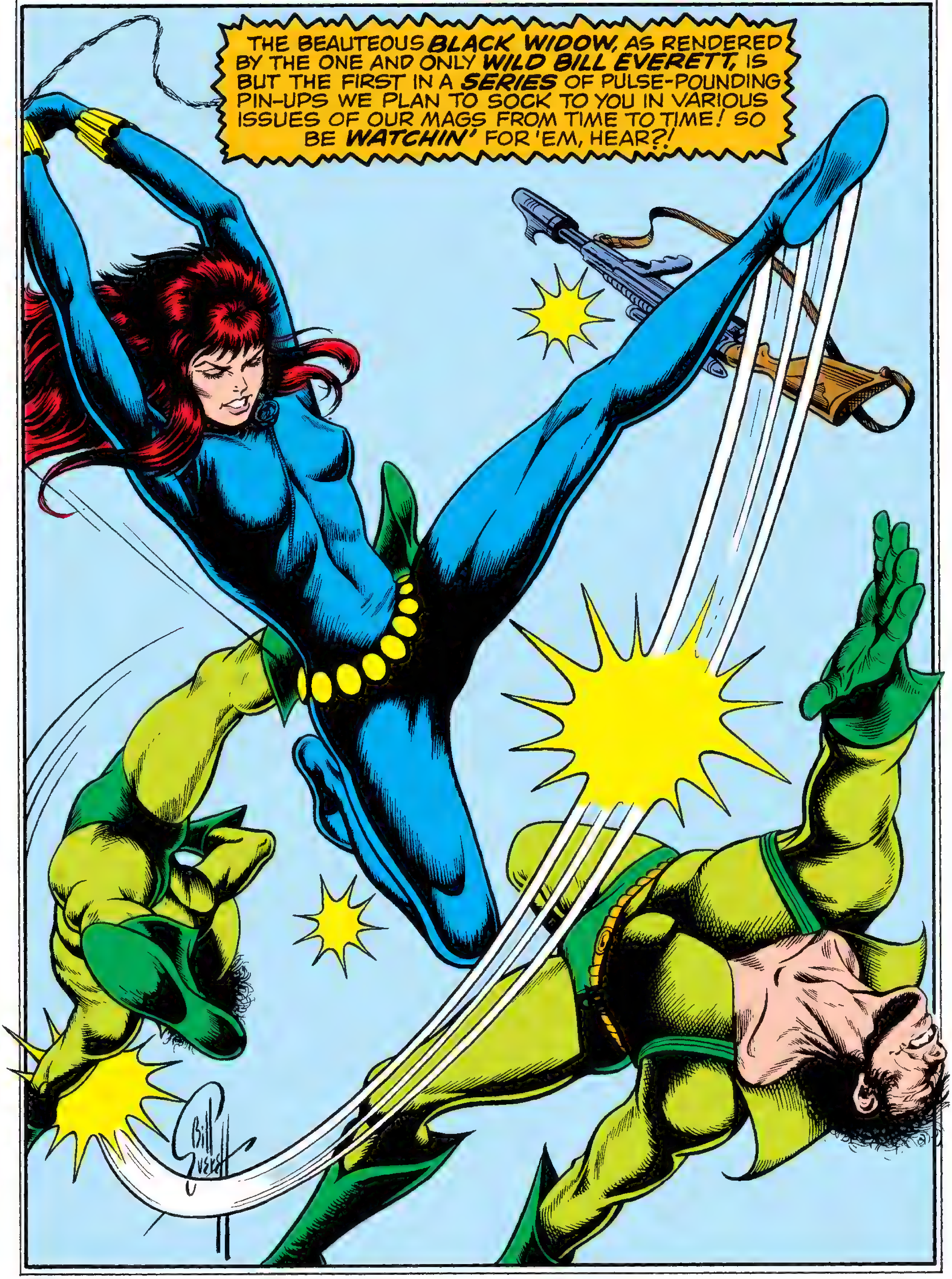

AND IF IT'S MANNERS YOU *NEED*--
IT'S MANNER'S YOU'LL *GET*-- THE *HARD WAY!*
YOU'VE QUITE A WAY WITH *WORDS,* M'DEAR--
YET WORDS ARE NOT THE *SOLE* ARBITER IN BATTLES SUCH AS THIS--
SOMETIMES *FORCE* MUST TAKE A HAND--
OWL!
A *STRONG HAND!*
ONLY A FOOL WOULD *MAINTAIN* HIS CEREBRAL WAYS--
--WHEN THE WAYS OF A *BRUTE* WOULD PROMISE *MORE!*
AND THE *OWL*--
--IS *NO* MAN'S--
WHAT?
HEADS *UP,* CURLY-TOP...
--AND *PLEASE... DON'T* MAKE THE USUAL CRACK--ABOUT MY BEING *DEAD!*
YOU *WON'T*-- AND I'M *NOT*--
AND ISN'T THAT *BETTER*-- ALL THE WAY *AROUND?*
ARROGANT *FOOL*-- AAAAAARRK!
KUNNNK
TELL ME AGAIN-- *WHO* HAS A WAY WITH WORDS?


AND *ANOTHER* THING, GENTLEMEN-- SINCE WHEN IS IT GOOD FORM--
--TO PLAY HOCKEY--WITH A LADY'S LITTLE *HEAD* AS A SLIGHTLY-ROUNDED *PUCK?*
KUNK
CRAK
BOSS--HE'S MOVING LIKE A BLASTED *MERRY-GO-ROU--* UNNNHH!
STOP 'IM, BOSS--*STOP 'IM!*
DAREDEVIL-- *BEHIND* YOU!
YOUR WARNING-- IS AN EXERCISE IN *FUTILITY,* GIRL.
WHEN *ROUSED--* THE OWL MOVES AS *LIGHTNING--!*
UH--DO ME A *FAVOR,* BRIGHT-EYES--
LET ME KNOW-- WHEN YOU'RE *ROUSED!*
I'LL MAKE A *POINT--*
--OF *BEING* THERE!
THUMP
NOOOOOO
IT ENDS *QUICKLY*--AND SUDDENLY, ALL THAT'S LEFT OF A MIGHTY *MENACE--*
--IS A SILENT *FORM--* COVERED WITH A SNOWFALL OF *DUSKY GREEN.*
EPILOGUE:
HOLD IT RIGHT *THERE,* SISTER--
IF *YOU'RE* THE ONE *BEHIND* THIS--!
GUESS *AGAIN,* MY FRIEND.
THE *OWL* IS THE MAN YOU WANT-- NOT *THE WIDOW.*
WIDOW?
I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD *SPEAK* TO YOU, DAREDEVIL.
AFTER THE WAY YOU TREATED YOUR *SAVIOR--*
...SAVIOR...? *YOU?*
YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T--?
18


HE'S... BLACKED OUT.
PERHAPS... PERHAPS HE DIDN'T KNOW--
CAREFUL, NATASHA... DON'T LOOK TOO CLOSELY AT HIM...
PLEASE-- REMEMBER THAT CURSE--
--AND BE CAREFUL... NOT TO CARE.
WE'VE NO JUDGEMENTS TO MAKE-- ONLY SETS TO CHANGE...
AND SO--
SO... OWL HAS FAILED--BOTH HIMSELF, AND US.
IT IS AS I EXPECTED-- BUT STILL--
ALL WENT SO WELL-- UNTIL HIS WILL MADE HIM DISOBEY!
I FEEL A TOUCH... OF ANGER.
THIS TIME, THEN--THE ONES I CHOOSE-- WILL HAVE NO WILL.
THIS TIME-- I CHOOSE THE SILENT ONES.
AYE... AT LAST--
--IT IS TIME--
--FOR THOSE WHO SLEEP!
FINIS
NEXT: The SINISTER SCORPION!

YOUR BENEVOLENT BULLPEN PROUDLY PRESENTS:

THE MERRY MARVEL GALLERY!


THE BEAUTEOUS **BLACK WIDOW**, AS RENDERED BY THE ONE AND ONLY **WILD BILL EVERETT**, IS BUT THE FIRST IN A **SERIES** OF PULSE-POUNDING PIN-UPS WE PLAN TO SOCK TO YOU IN VARIOUS ISSUES OF OUR MAGS FROM TIME TO TIME! SO BE **WATCHIN'** FOR 'EM, HEAR?!
Bill Everett

DAREDEVIL **MARVEL COMICS GROUP**™

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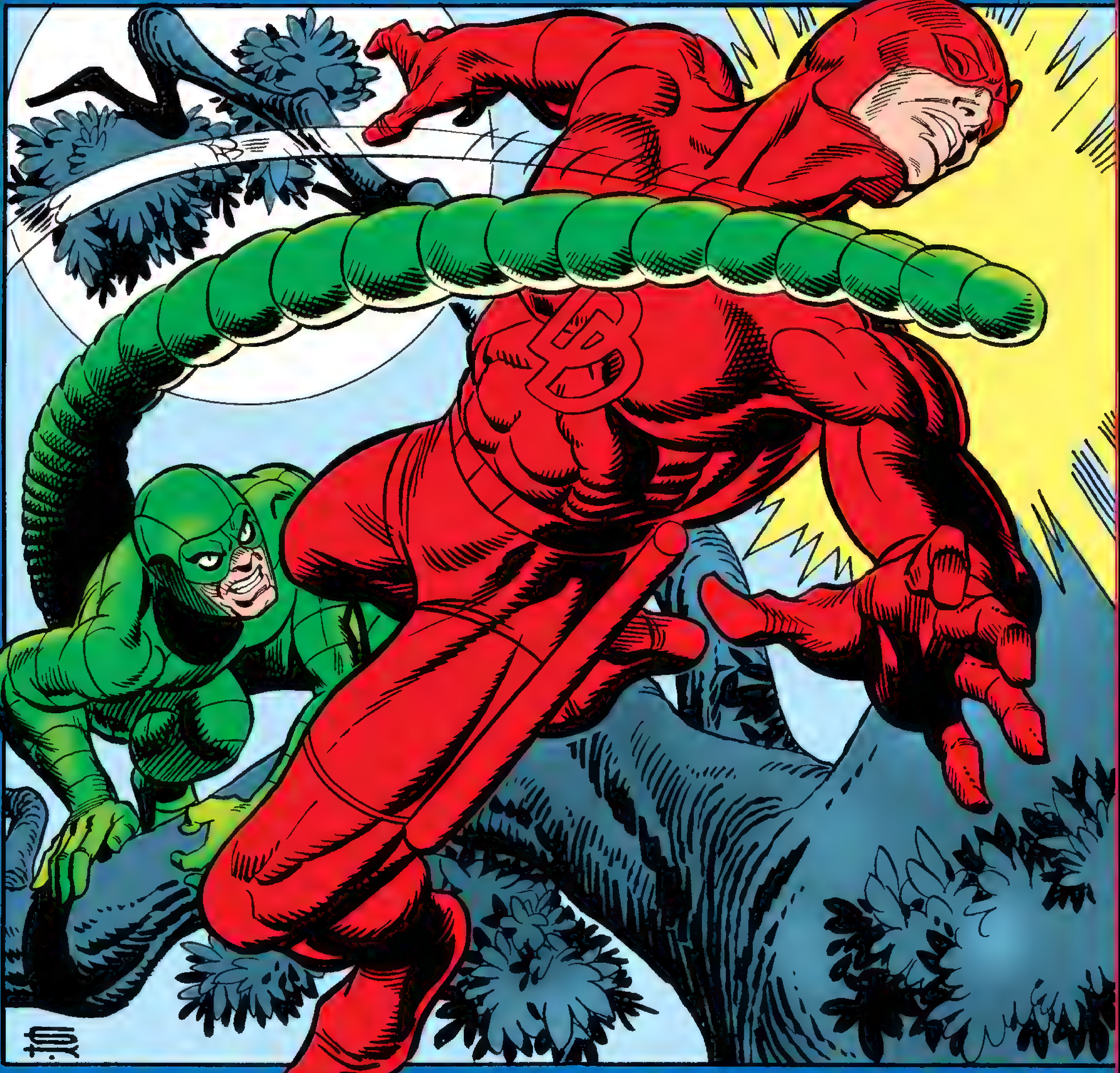
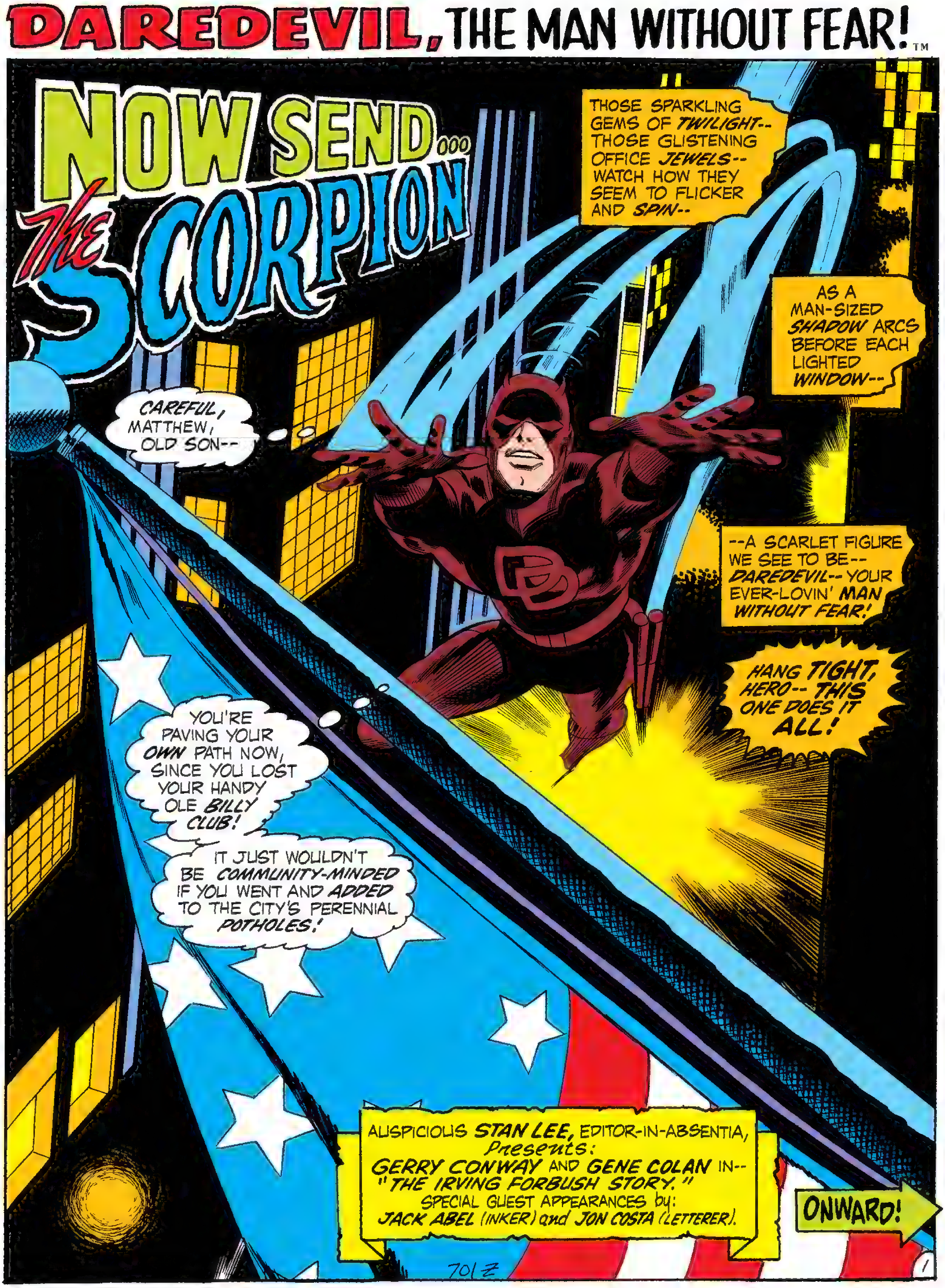
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DAREDEVIL™

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



"SEND FOR...THE SCORPION!"


DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR! ™
NOW SEND... THE SCORPION
THOSE SPARKLING GEMS OF TWILIGHT-- THOSE GLISTENING OFFICE JEWELS-- WATCH HOW THEY SEEM TO FLICKER AND SPIN--
AS A MAN-SIZED SHADOW ARCS BEFORE EACH LIGHTED WINDOW--
CAREFUL, MATTHEW, OLD SON--
--A SCARLET FIGURE WE SEE TO BE-- DAREDEVIL-- YOUR EVER-LOVIN' MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
HANG TIGHT, HERO-- THIS ONE DOES IT ALL!
YOU'RE PAVING YOUR OWN PATH NOW, SINCE YOU LOST YOUR HANDY OLE BILLY CLUB!
IT JUST WOULDN'T BE COMMUNITY-MINDED IF YOU WENT AND ADDED TO THE CITY'S PERENNIAL POTHOLES!
AUSPICIOUS STAN LEE, EDITOR-IN-ABSENTIA, Presents: GERRY CONWAY AND GENE COLAN IN-- "THE IRVING FORBUSH STORY." SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCES by: JACK ABEL (INKER) and JON COSTA (LETTERER).
ONWARD!
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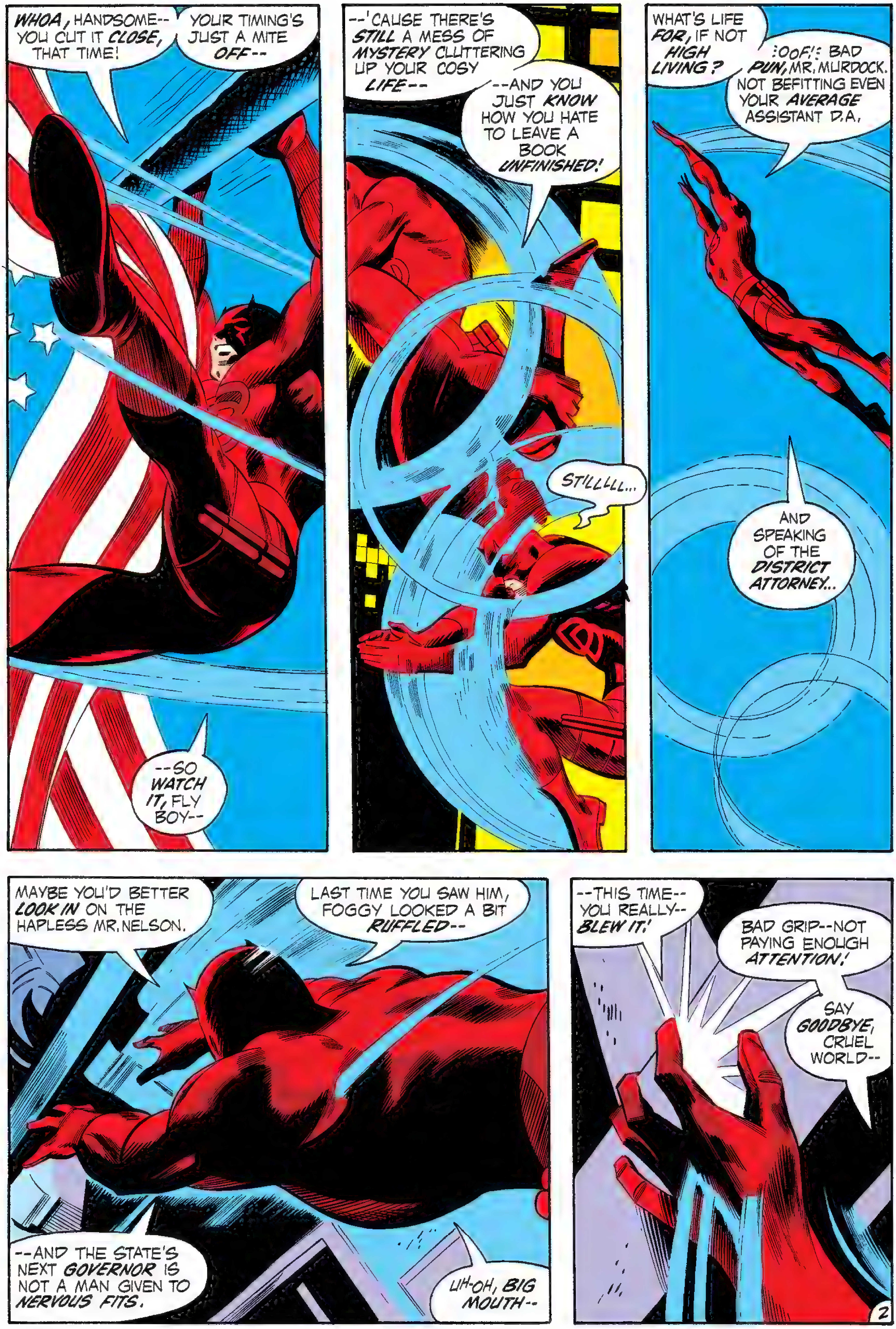
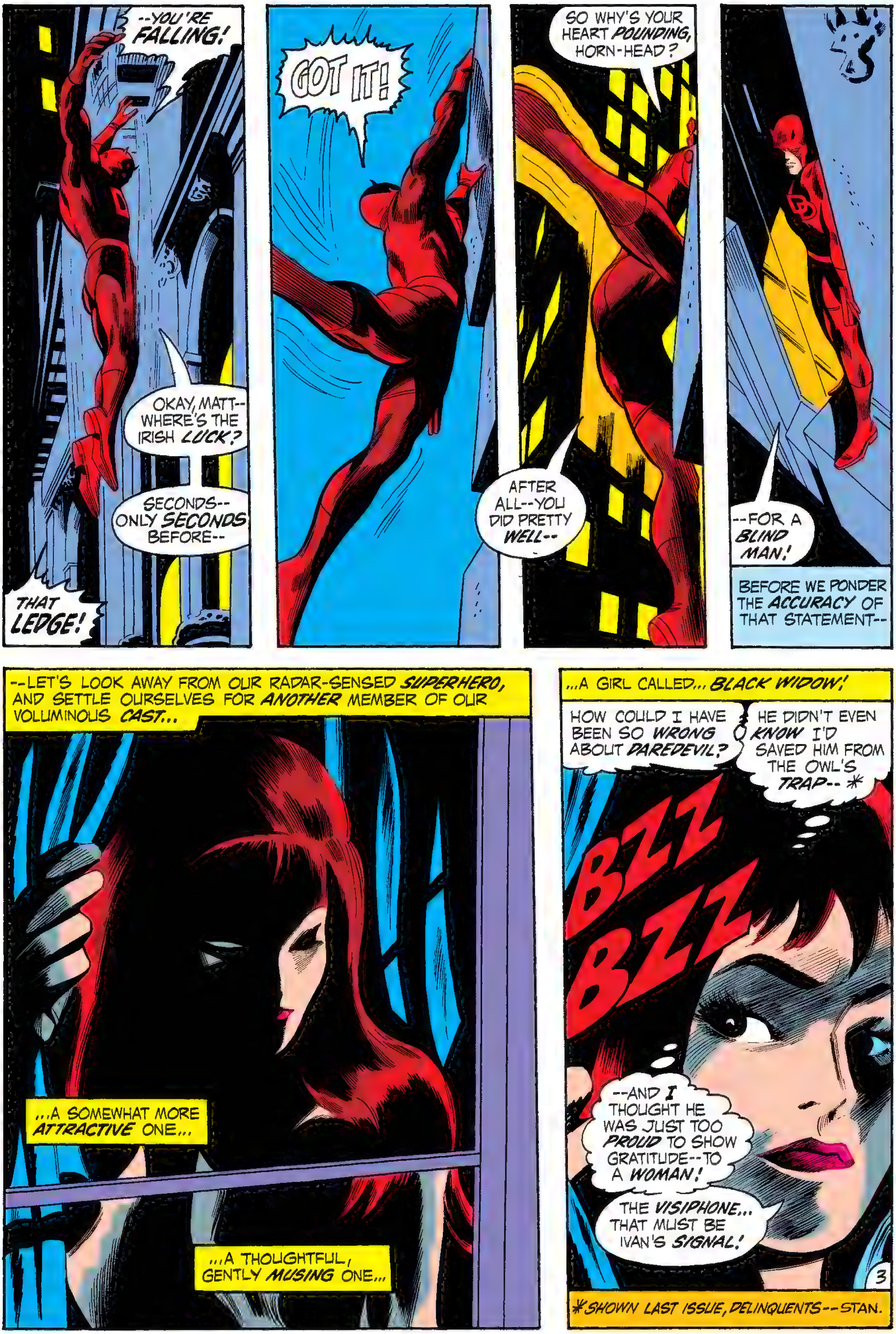
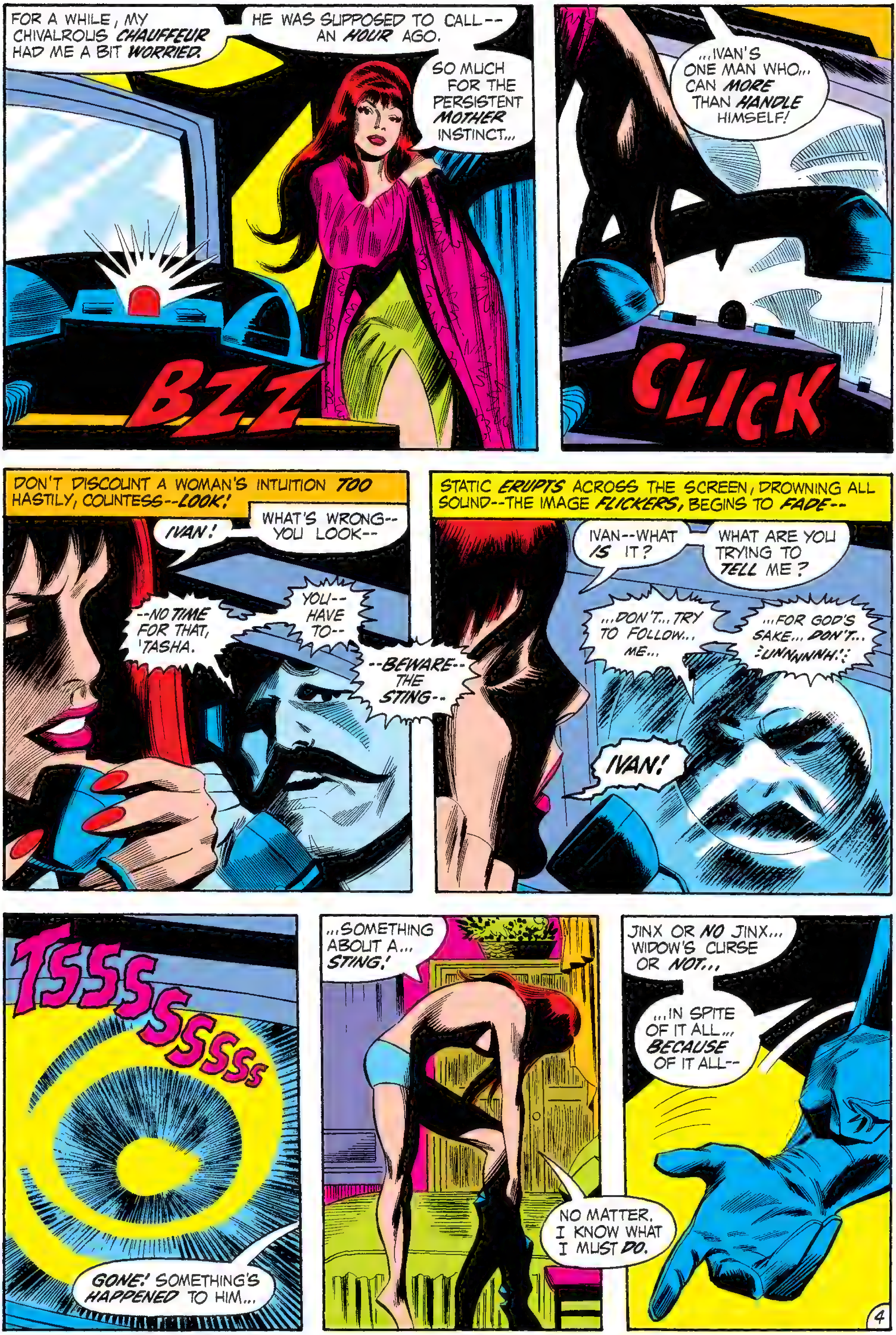
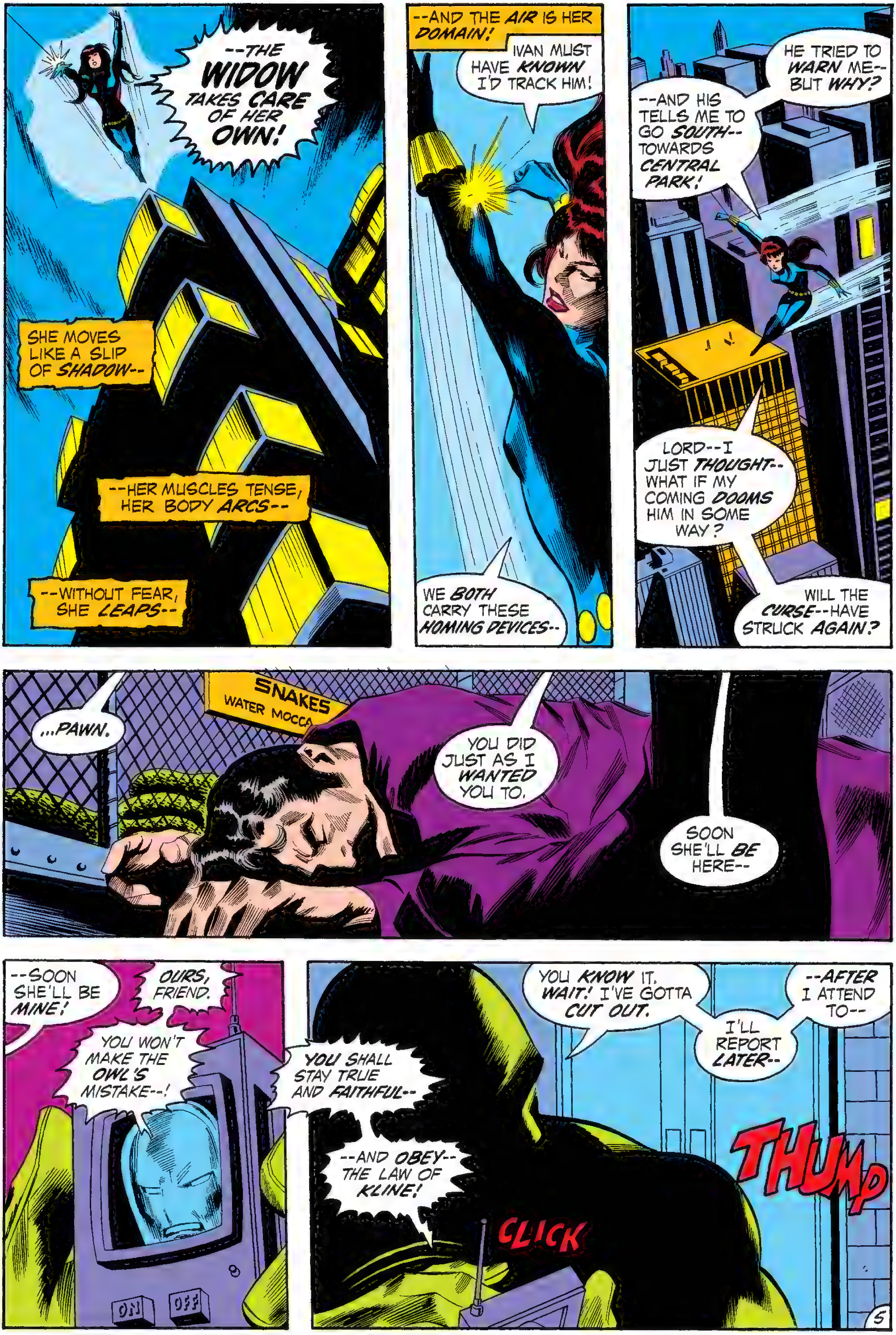
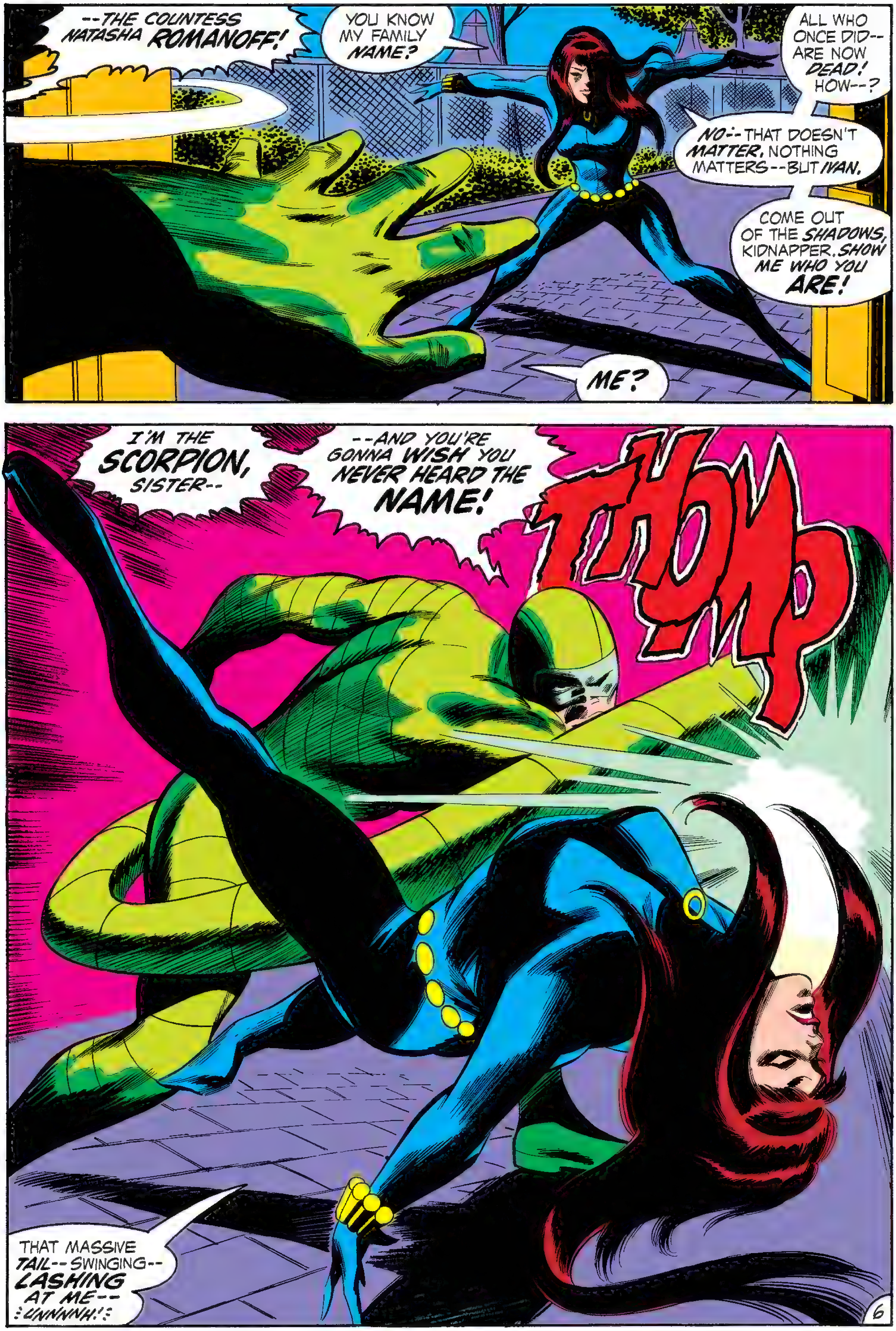
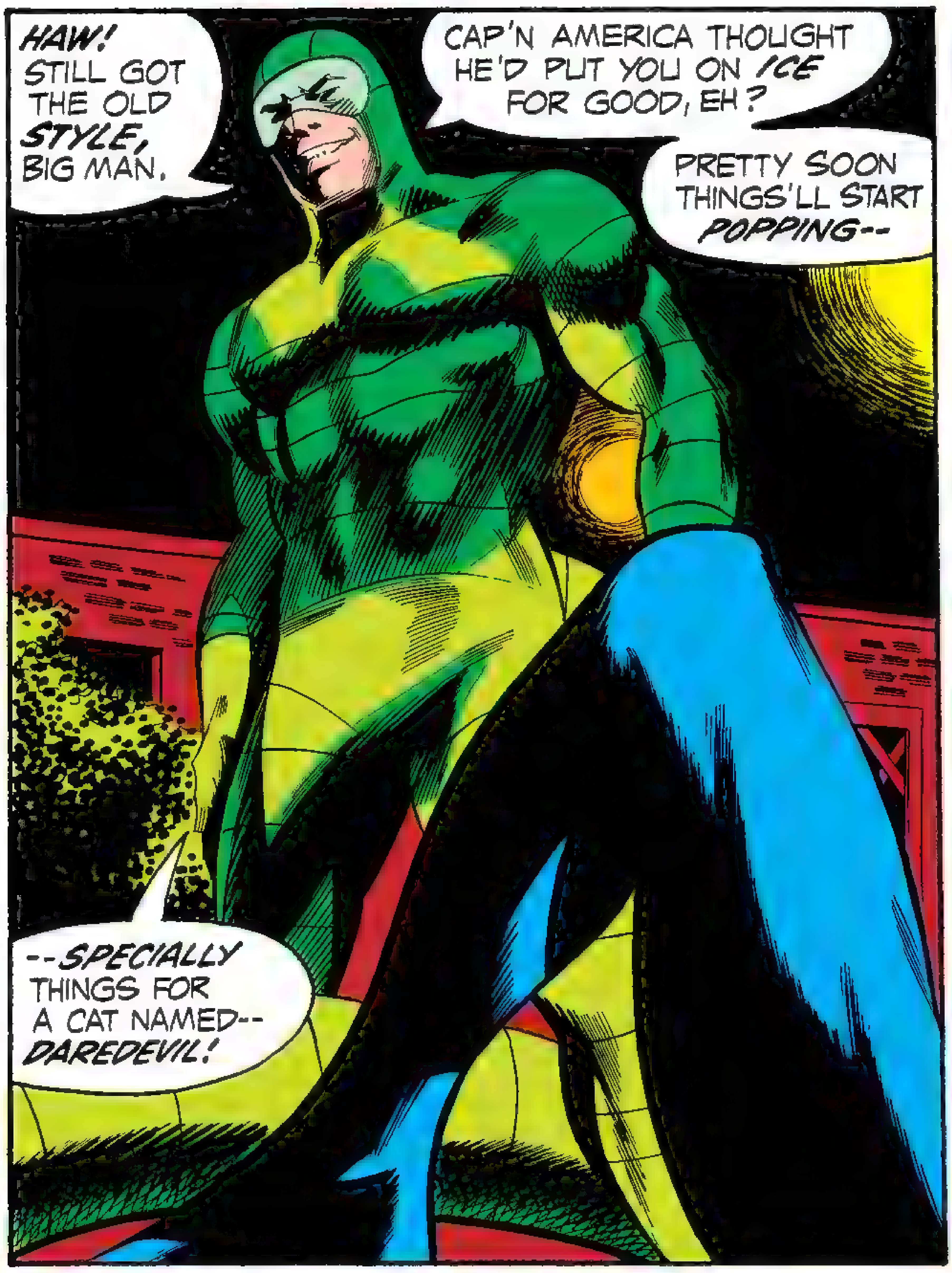

WHOA, HANDSOME-- YOU CUT IT CLOSE, THAT TIME!
YOUR TIMING'S JUST A MITE OFF--
--SO WATCH IT, FLY BOY--
--'CAUSE THERE'S STILL A MESS OF MYSTERY CLUTTERING UP YOUR COSY LIFE--
--AND YOU JUST KNOW HOW YOU HATE TO LEAVE A BOOK UNFINISHED!
STILLLLL...
WHAT'S LIFE FOR, IF NOT HIGH LIVING?
:OOF!: BAD PUN, MR. MURDOCK. NOT BEFITTING EVEN YOUR AVERAGE ASSISTANT D.A.
AND SPEAKING OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY...
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER LOOK IN ON THE HAPLESS MR. NELSON.
LAST TIME YOU SAW HIM, FOGGY LOOKED A BIT RUFFLED--
--AND THE STATE'S NEXT GOVERNOR IS NOT A MAN GIVEN TO NERVOUS FITS.
UH-OH, BIG MOUTH--
--THIS TIME-- YOU REALLY-- BLEW IT!
BAD GRIP--NOT PAYING ENOUGH ATTENTION!
SAY GOODBYE, CRUEL WORLD--

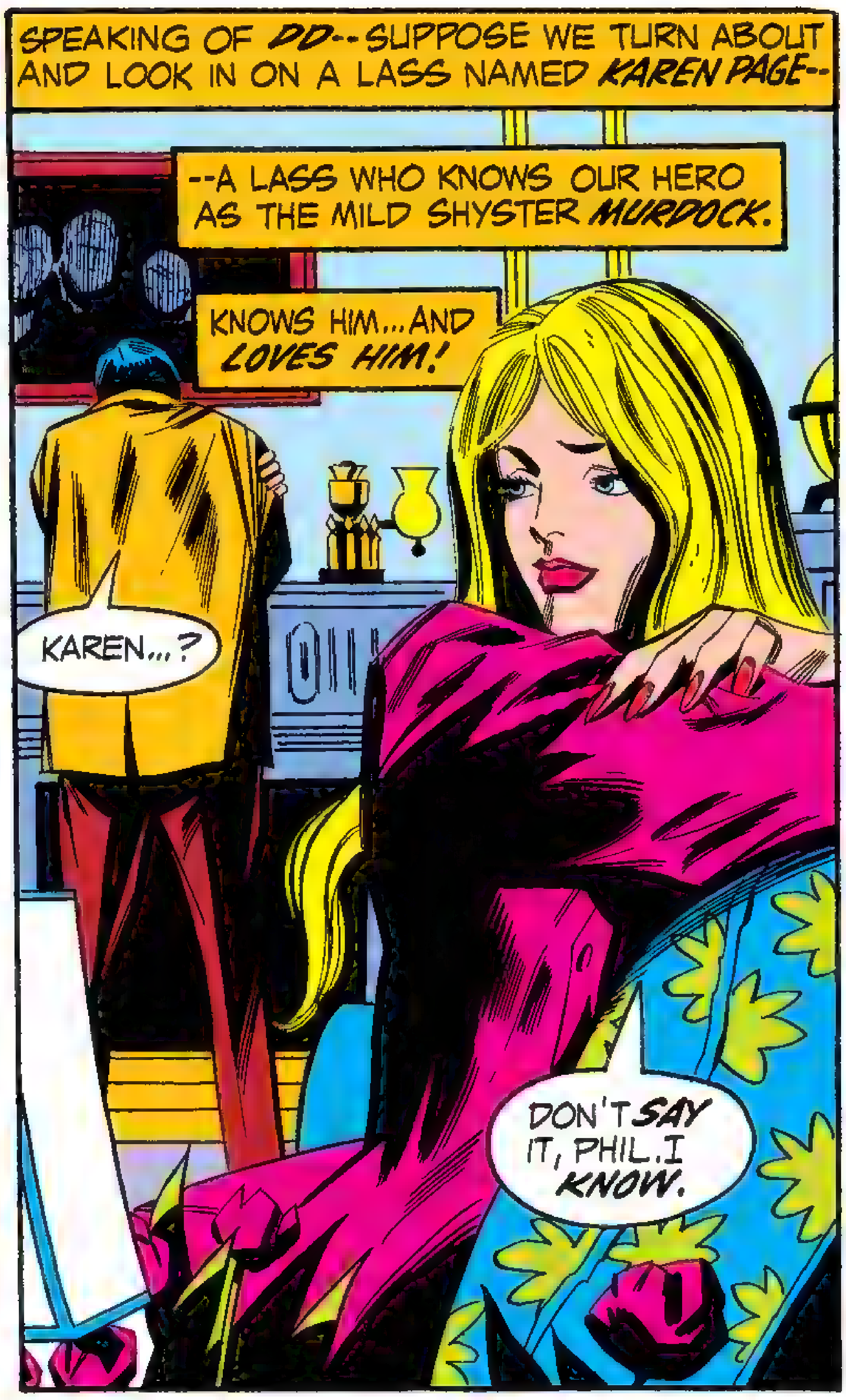

--YOU'RE FALLING!
OKAY, MATT-- WHERE'S THE IRISH LUCK?
SECONDS-- ONLY SECONDS BEFORE--
THAT LEDGE!
GOT IT!
SO WHY'S YOUR HEART POUNDING, HORN-HEAD?
AFTER ALL--YOU DID PRETTY WELL--
--FOR A BLIND MAN!
BEFORE WE PONDER THE ACCURACY OF THAT STATEMENT--
--LET'S LOOK AWAY FROM OUR RADAR-SENSED SUPERHERO, AND SETTLE OURSELVES FOR ANOTHER MEMBER OF OUR VOLUMINOUS CAST...
...A SOMEWHAT MORE ATTRACTIVE ONE...
...A THOUGHTFUL, GENTLY MUSING ONE...
...A GIRL CALLED... BLACK WIDOW!
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO WRONG ABOUT DAREDEVIL?
HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I'D SAVED HIM FROM THE OWL'S TRAP-- *
BZZ BZZ
--AND I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST TOO PROUD TO SHOW GRATITUDE--TO A WOMAN!
THE VISIPHONE... THAT MUST BE IVAN'S SIGNAL!
3
*SHOWN LAST ISSUE, DELINQUENTS--STAN.

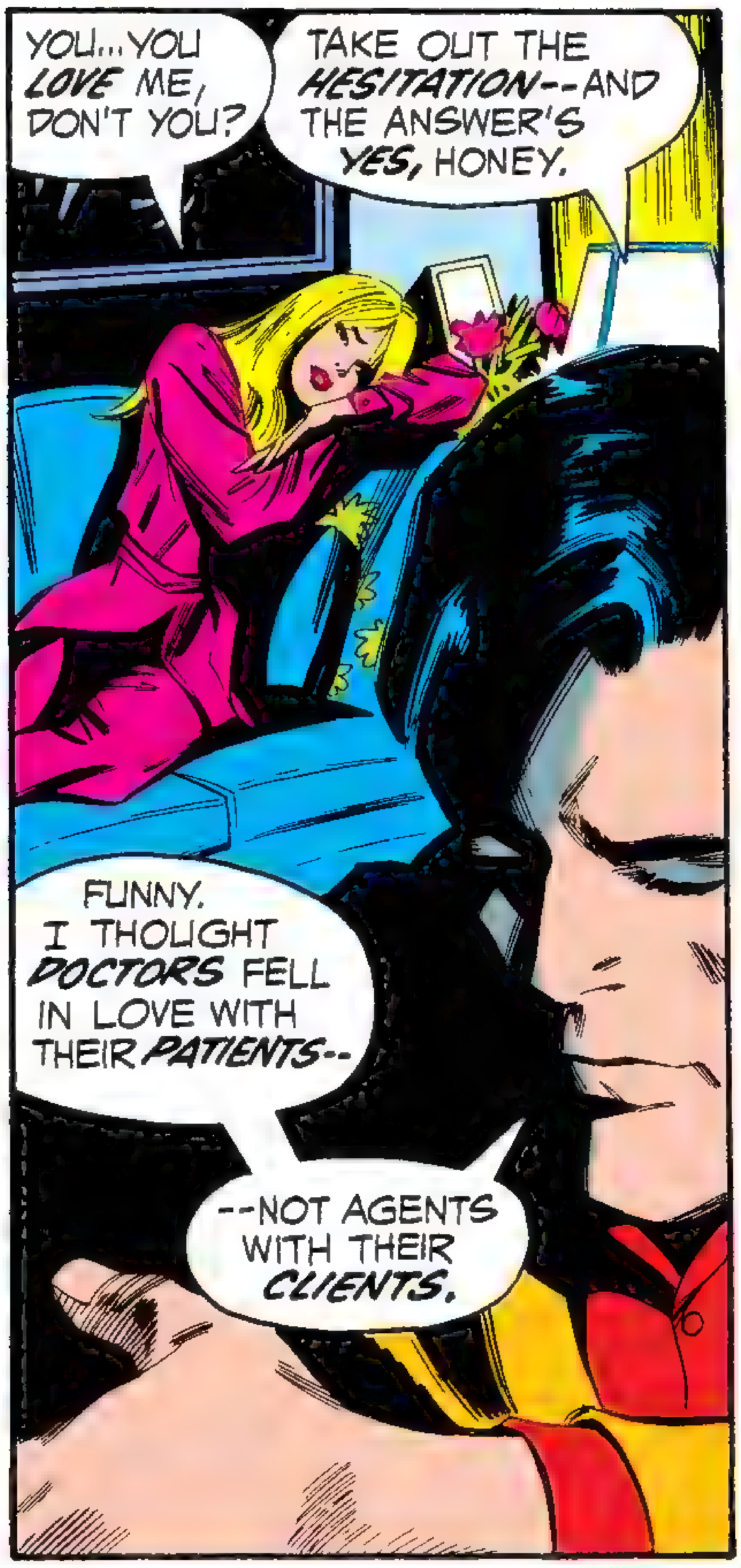

FOR A WHILE, MY CHIVALROUS *CHAUFFEUR* HAD ME A BIT *WORRIED.*
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO CALL-- AN *HOUR* AGO.
SO MUCH FOR THE PERSISTENT *MOTHER* INSTINCT...
BZZ
...IVAN'S ONE MAN WHO... CAN *MORE* THAN *HANDLE* HIMSELF!
CLICK
DON'T DISCOUNT A WOMAN'S INTUITION *TOO* HASTILY, COUNTESS--*LOOK!*
IVAN!
WHAT'S WRONG-- YOU LOOK--
--*NO TIME* FOR THAT, 'TASHA.
YOU-- HAVE TO--
--*BEWARE*-- THE *STING*--
STATIC *ERUPTS* ACROSS THE SCREEN, DROWNING ALL SOUND--THE IMAGE *FLICKERS,* BEGINS TO *FADE*--
IVAN--WHAT *IS* IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO *TELL* ME?
...*DON'T*... TRY TO FOLLOW... ME...
...FOR GOD'S SAKE... *DON'T*... *UNNNNNH!*
IVAN!
TSSSSSSSSS
GONE! SOMETHING'S *HAPPENED* TO HIM...
...SOMETHING ABOUT A... *STING!*
NO MATTER. I KNOW WHAT I MUST *DO.*
JINX OR *NO* JINX... WIDOW'S CURSE OR *NOT*...
...IN SPITE OF IT ALL... *BECAUSE* OF IT ALL--

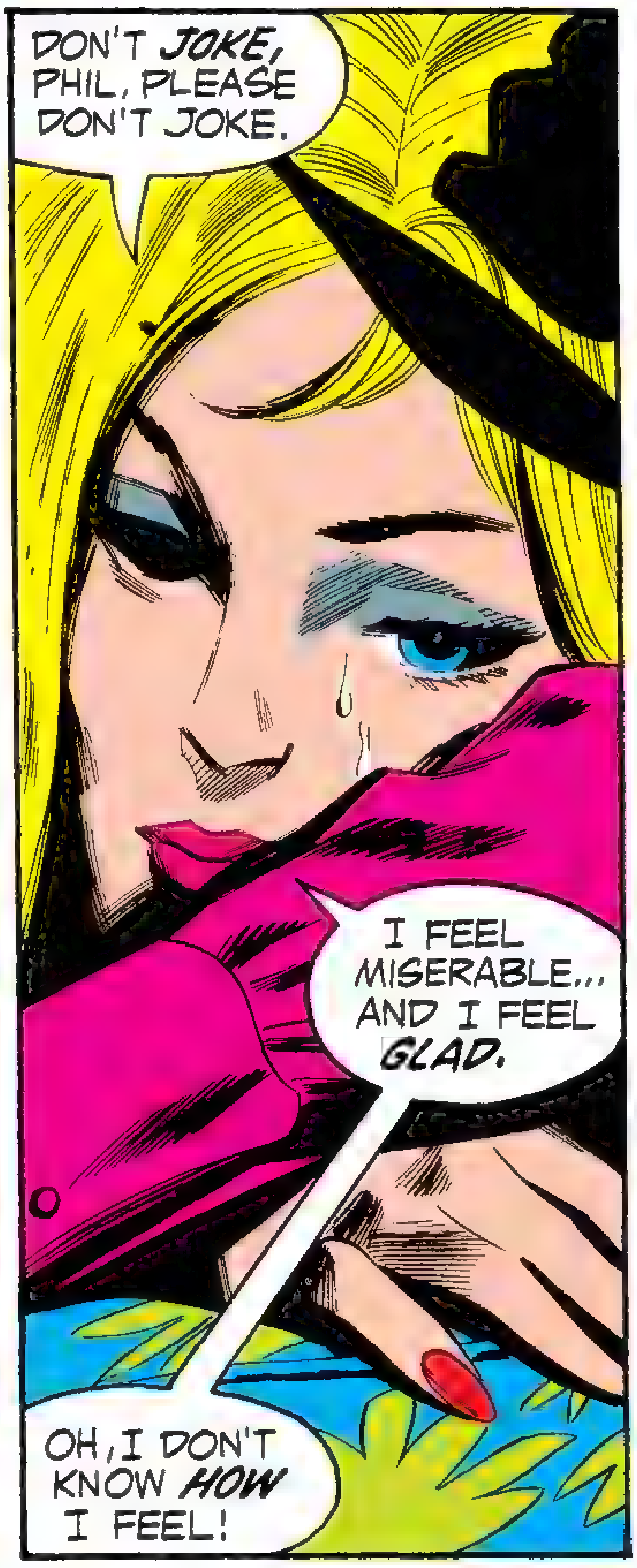

--THE WIDOW TAKES CARE OF HER OWN!
SHE MOVES LIKE A SLIP OF SHADOW--
--HER MUSCLES TENSE, HER BODY ARCS--
--WITHOUT FEAR, SHE LEAPS--
--AND THE AIR IS HER DOMAIN!
IVAN MUST HAVE KNOWN I'D TRACK HIM!
WE BOTH CARRY THESE HOMING DEVICES--
HE TRIED TO WARN ME--BUT WHY?
--AND HIS TELLS ME TO GO SOUTH--TOWARDS CENTRAL PARK!
LORD--I JUST THOUGHT--WHAT IF MY COMING DOOMS HIM IN SOME WAY?
WILL THE CURSE--HAVE STRUCK AGAIN?
SNAKES
WATER MOCCA
...PAWN.
YOU DID JUST AS I WANTED YOU TO.
SOON SHE'LL BE HERE--
--SOON SHE'LL BE MINE!
OURS, FRIEND.
YOU WON'T MAKE THE OWL'S MISTAKE--!
ON
OFF
YOU SHALL STAY TRUE AND FAITHFUL--
--AND OBEY--THE LAW OF KLINE!
CLICK
YOU KNOW IT. WAIT! I'VE GOTTA CUT OUT.
I'LL REPORT LATER--
--AFTER I ATTEND TO--
THUMP

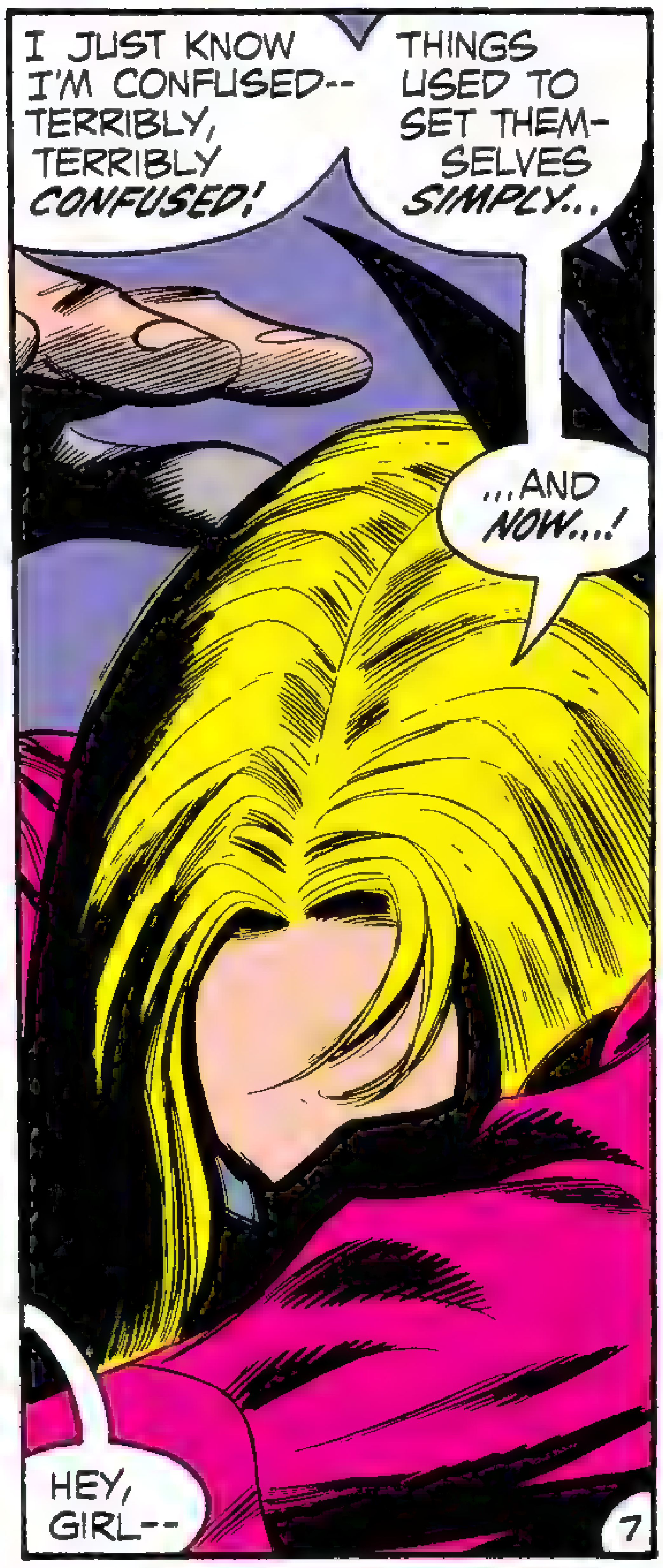

--THE COUNTESS NATASHA ROMANOFF!
YOU KNOW MY FAMILY NAME?
ALL WHO ONCE DID-- ARE NOW DEAD! HOW--?
NO--THAT DOESN'T MATTER. NOTHING MATTERS--BUT IVAN.
COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS, KIDNAPPER. SHOW ME WHO YOU ARE!
ME?
I'M THE SCORPION, SISTER--
--AND YOU'RE GONNA WISH YOU NEVER HEARD THE NAME!
THOMP
THAT MASSIVE TAIL--SWINGING--LASHING AT ME-- UNNNNH!

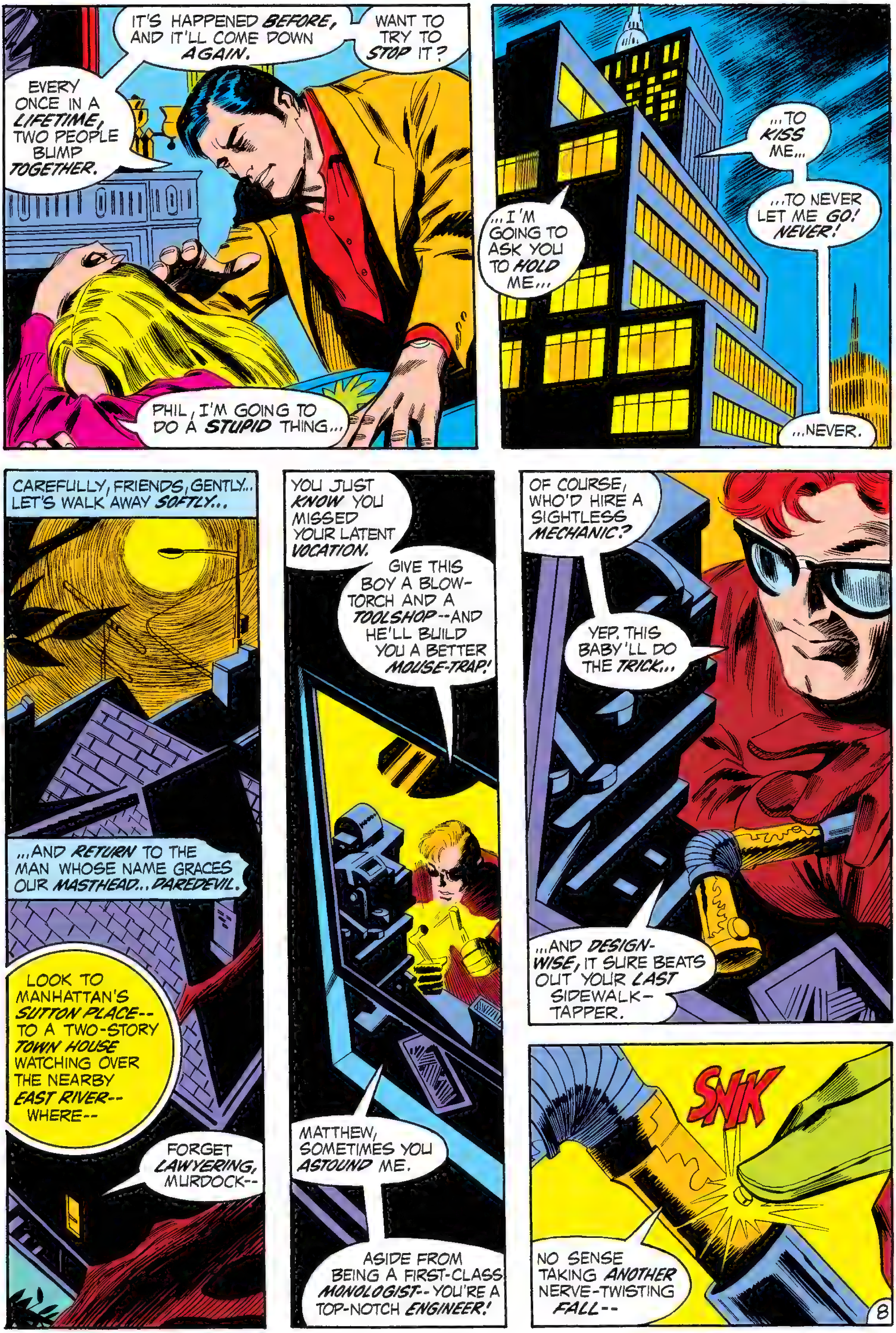

HAW! STILL GOT THE OLD *STYLE,* BIG MAN.
CAP'N AMERICA THOUGHT HE'D PUT YOU ON *ICE* FOR GOOD, EH?
PRETTY SOON THINGS'LL START *POPPING*--
--*SPECIALLY* THINGS FOR A CAT NAMED-- *DAREDEVIL!*

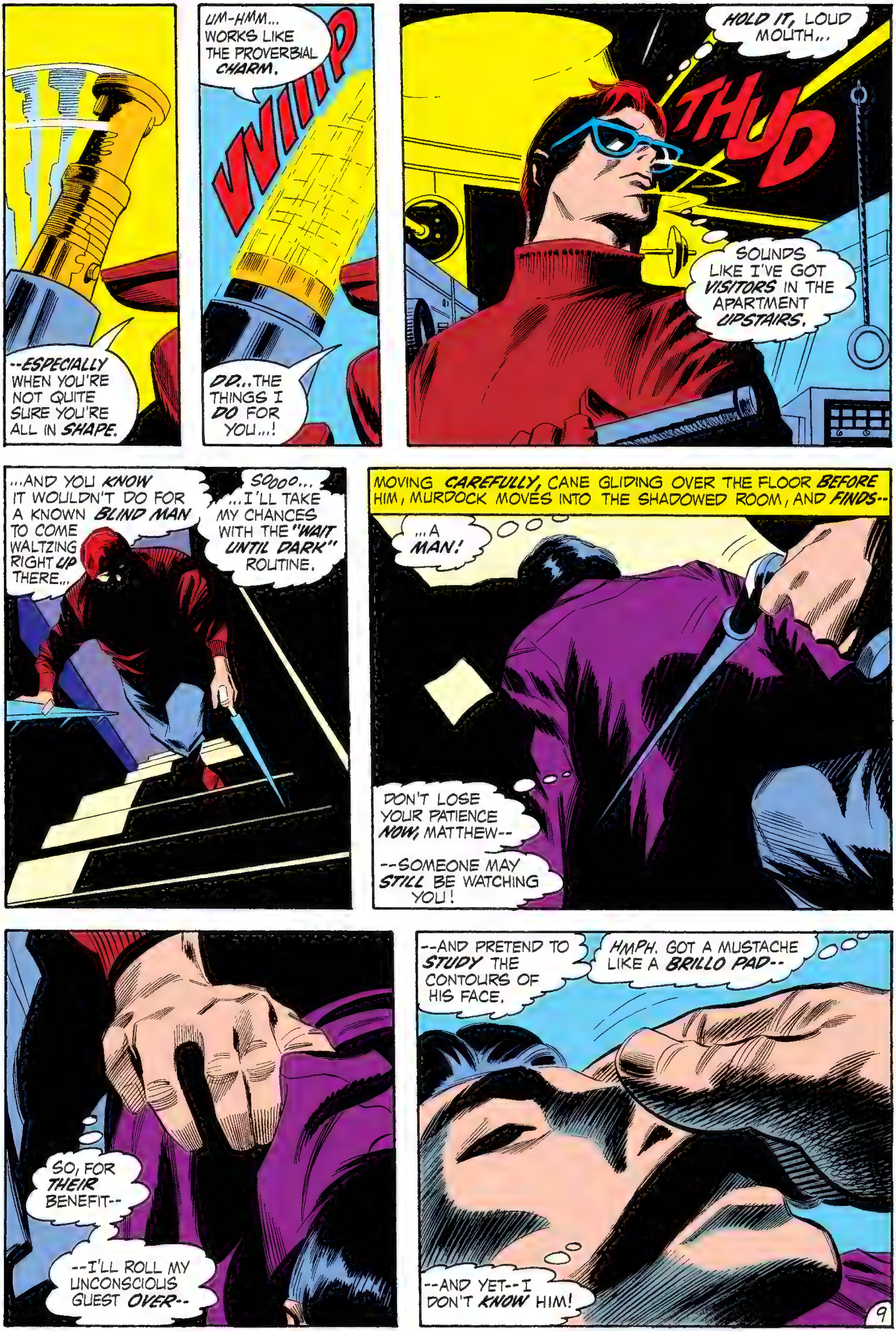

SPEAKING OF *DD*--SUPPOSE WE TURN ABOUT AND LOOK IN ON A LASS NAMED *KAREN PAGE*--
--A LASS WHO KNOWS OUR HERO AS THE MILD SHYSTER *MURDOCK.*
KNOWS HIM...AND *LOVES HIM!*
KAREN...?
DON'T *SAY* IT, PHIL. I *KNOW.*

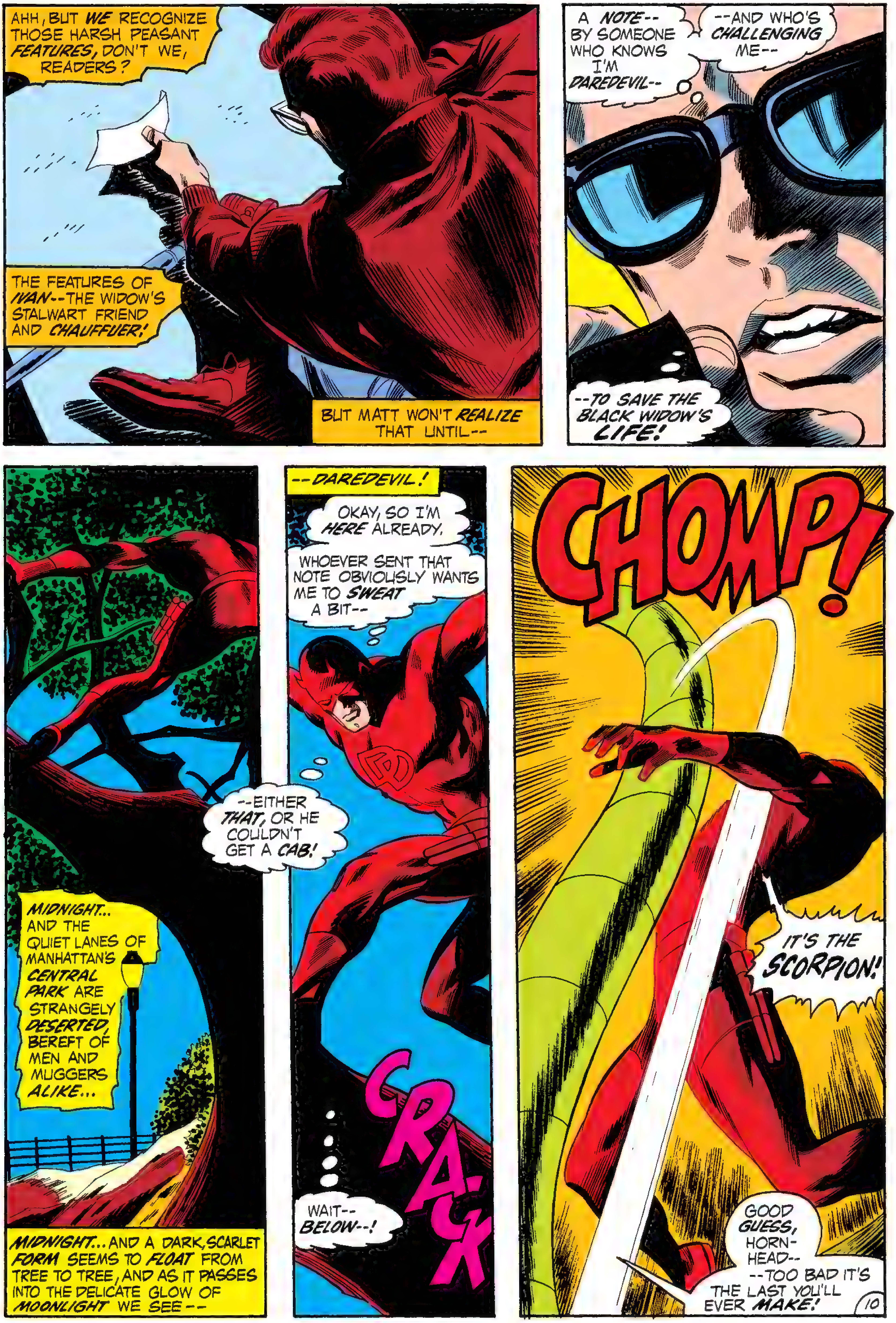

YOU...YOU *LOVE* ME, DON'T YOU?
TAKE OUT THE *HESITATION*--AND THE ANSWER'S *YES,* HONEY.
FUNNY. I THOUGHT *DOCTORS* FELL IN LOVE WITH THEIR *PATIENTS*--
--NOT AGENTS WITH THEIR *CLIENTS.*

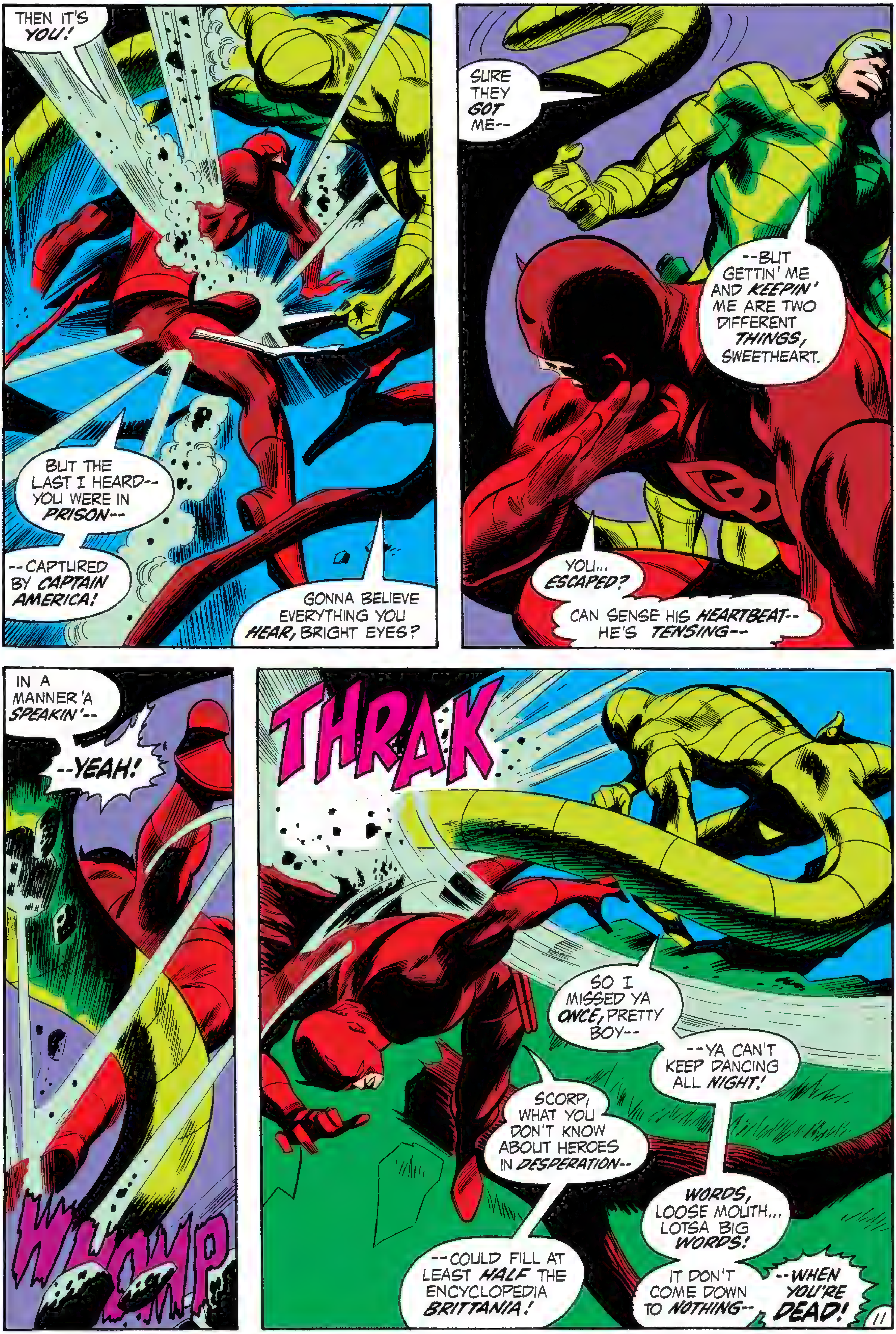

DON'T *JOKE,* PHIL, PLEASE DON'T JOKE.
I FEEL MISERABLE... AND I FEEL *GLAD.*
OH, I DON'T KNOW *HOW* I FEEL!

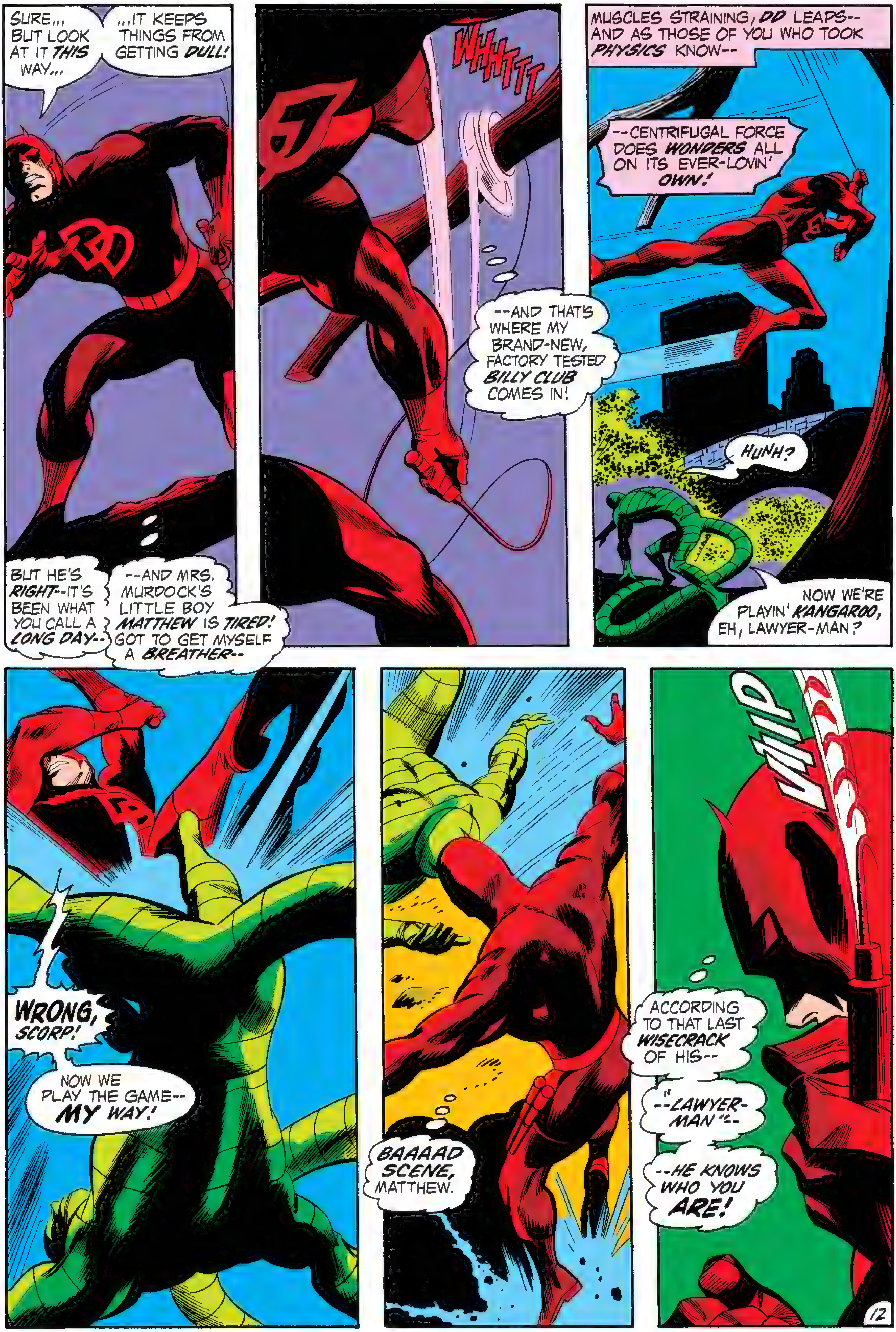

I JUST KNOW I'M CONFUSED-- TERRIBLY, TERRIBLY *CONFUSED!*
THINGS USED TO SET THEMSELVES *SIMPLY*...
...AND *NOW*...!
HEY, GIRL--

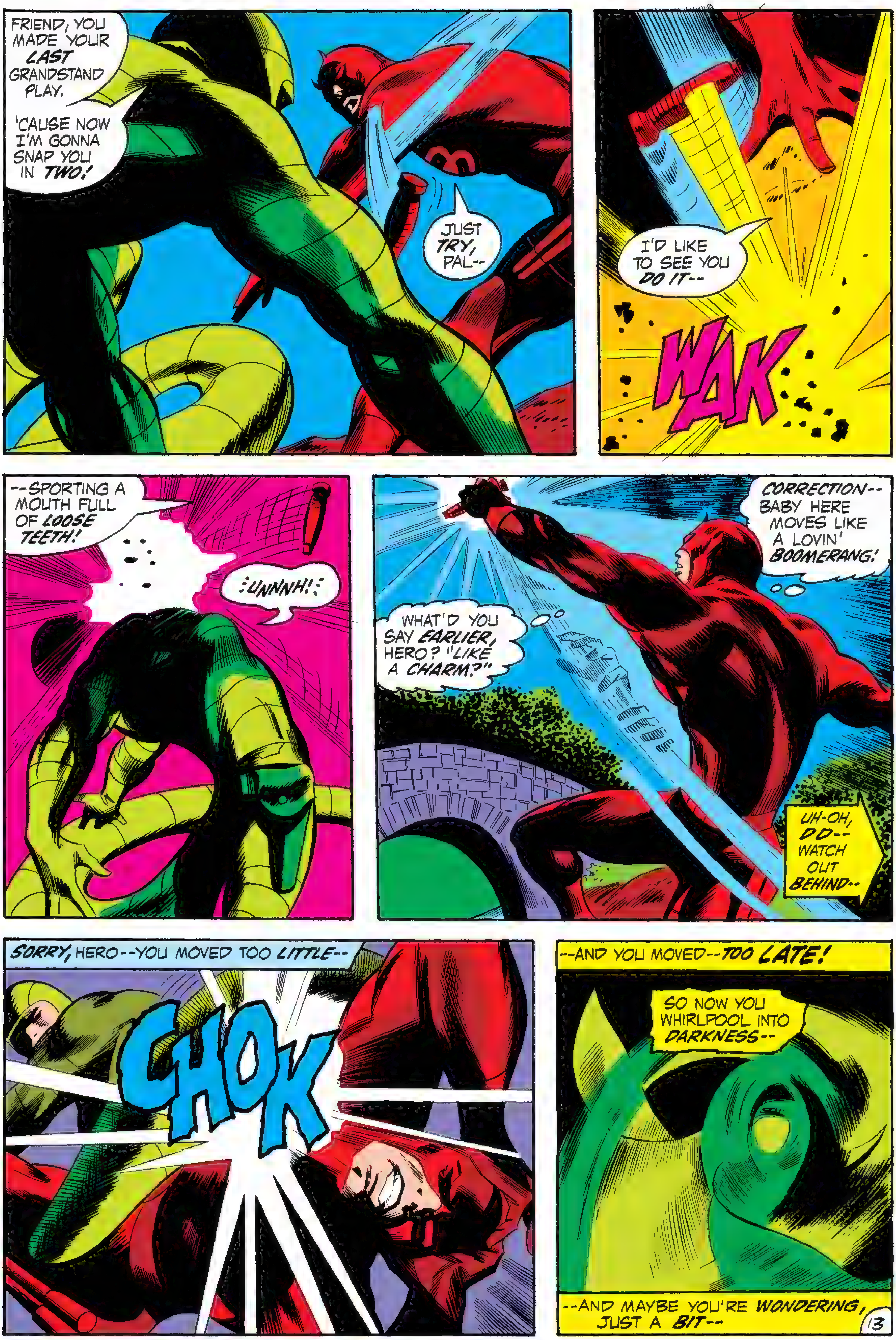

EVERY ONCE IN A *LIFETIME,* TWO PEOPLE BUMP *TOGETHER.*
IT'S HAPPENED *BEFORE,* AND IT'LL COME DOWN *AGAIN.*
WANT TO TRY TO *STOP* IT?
PHIL, I'M GOING TO DO A *STUPID* THING...
...I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO *HOLD* ME...
...TO *KISS* ME...
...TO NEVER LET ME *GO! NEVER!*
...NEVER.
CAREFULLY, FRIENDS, GENTLY... LET'S WALK AWAY *SOFTLY...*
...AND *RETURN* TO THE MAN WHOSE NAME GRACES OUR *MASTHEAD...DAREDEVIL.*
LOOK TO MANHATTAN'S *SUTTON PLACE--* TO A TWO-STORY *TOWN HOUSE* WATCHING OVER THE NEARBY *EAST RIVER--* WHERE--
FORGET *LAWYERING,* MURDOCK--
YOU JUST *KNOW* YOU MISSED YOUR LATENT *VOCATION.*
GIVE THIS BOY A BLOW-TORCH AND A *TOOLSHOP*--AND HE'LL BUILD YOU A BETTER *MOUSE-TRAP!*
MATTHEW, SOMETIMES YOU *ASTOUND* ME.
ASIDE FROM BEING A FIRST-CLASS *MONOLOGIST*--YOU'RE A TOP-NOTCH *ENGINEER!*
OF COURSE, WHO'D HIRE A SIGHTLESS *MECHANIC?*
YEP, THIS BABY'LL DO THE *TRICK...*
...AND *DESIGN-WISE,* IT SURE BEATS OUT YOUR *LAST* SIDEWALK-TAPPER.
SNIK
NO SENSE TAKING *ANOTHER* NERVE-TWISTING *FALL--*

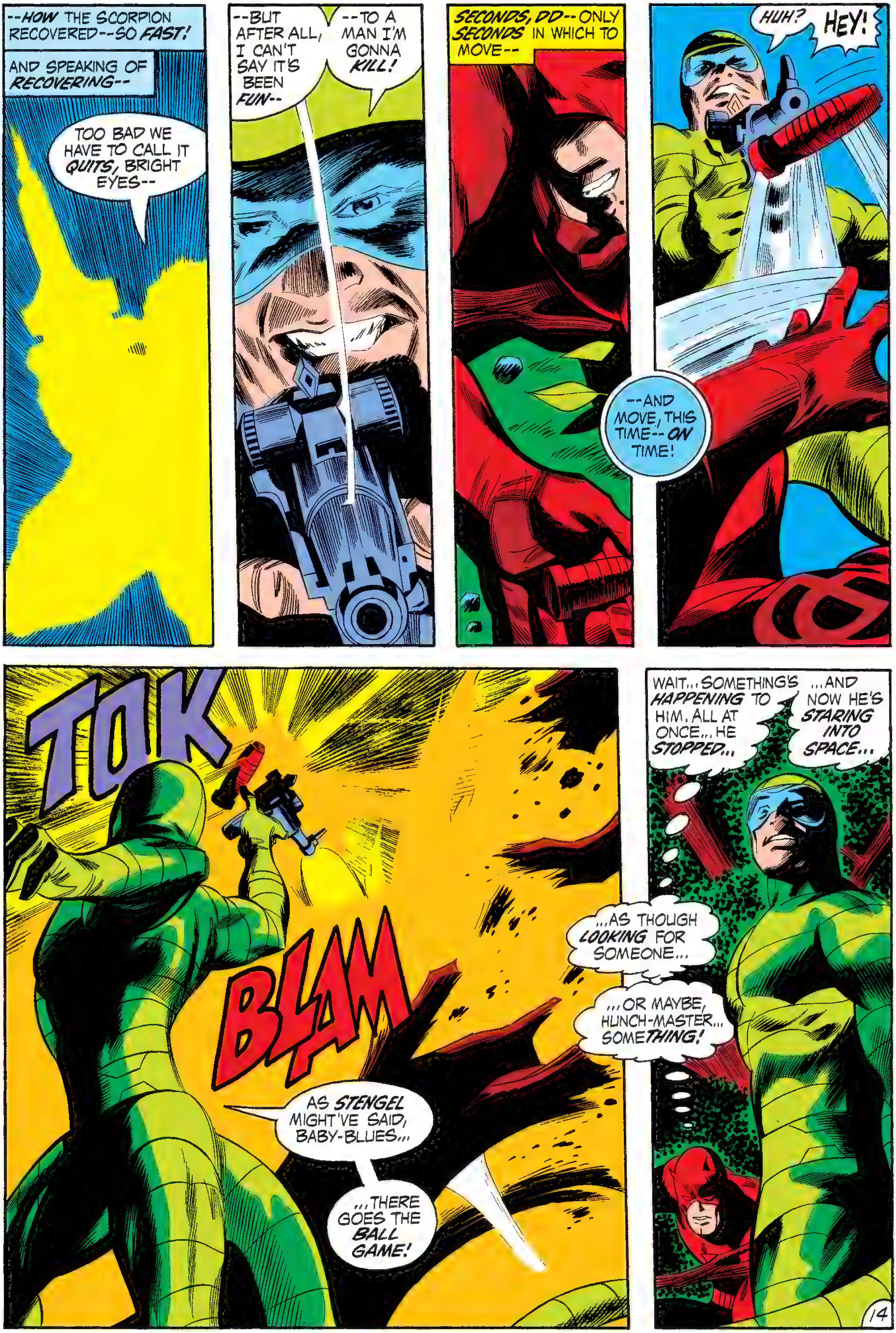

--ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE NOT QUITE SURE YOU'RE ALL IN SHAPE.
UM-HMM... WORKS LIKE THE PROVERBIAL CHARM.
VVIIIIP
DO..THE THINGS I DO FOR YOU...!
HOLD IT, LOUD MOUTH...
THUD
SOUNDS LIKE I'VE GOT VISITORS IN THE APARTMENT UPSTAIRS.
...AND YOU KNOW IT WOULDN'T DO FOR A KNOWN BLIND MAN TO COME WALTZING RIGHT UP THERE...
SOooo... ...I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES WITH THE "WAIT UNTIL DARK" ROUTINE.
MOVING CAREFULLY, CANE GLIDING OVER THE FLOOR BEFORE HIM, MURDOCK MOVES INTO THE SHADOWED ROOM, AND FINDS--
...A MAN!
DON'T LOSE YOUR PATIENCE NOW, MATTHEW--
--SOMEONE MAY STILL BE WATCHING YOU!
SO, FOR THEIR BENEFIT--
--I'LL ROLL MY UNCONSCIOUS GUEST OVER--
--AND PRETEND TO STUDY THE CONTOURS OF HIS FACE.
HMPH. GOT A MUSTACHE LIKE A BRILLO PAD--
--AND YET--I DON'T KNOW HIM!

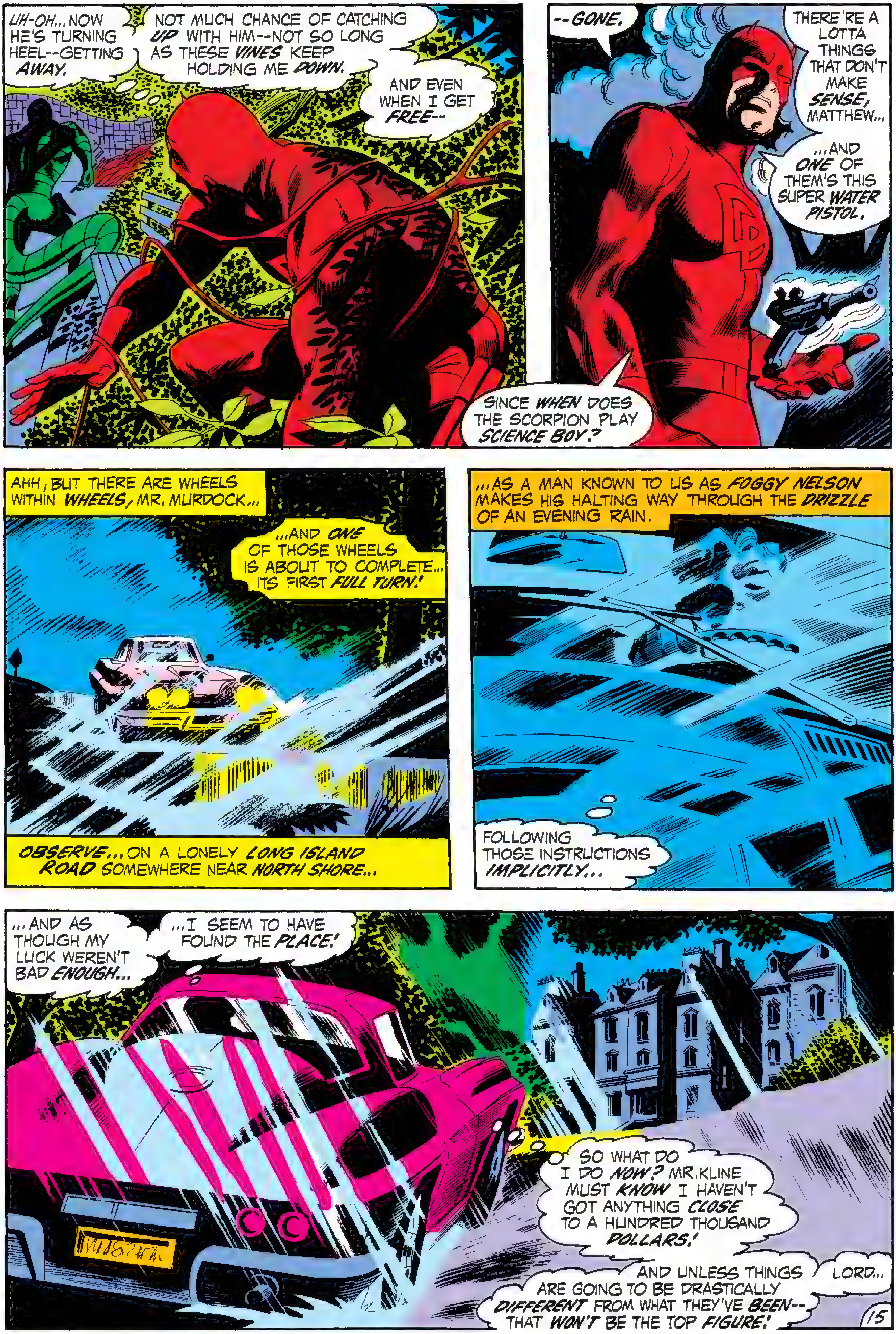

AHH, BUT WE RECOGNIZE THOSE HARSH PEASANT FEATURES, DON'T WE, READERS?
THE FEATURES OF IVAN--THE WIDOW'S STALWART FRIEND AND CHAUFFUER!
BUT MATT WON'T REALIZE THAT UNTIL--
A NOTE-- BY SOMEONE WHO KNOWS I'M DAREDEVIL--
--AND WHO'S CHALLENGING ME--
--TO SAVE THE BLACK WIDOW'S LIFE!
MIDNIGHT... AND THE QUIET LANES OF MANHATTAN'S CENTRAL PARK ARE STRANGELY DESERTED, BEREFT OF MEN AND MUGGERS ALIKE...
MIDNIGHT... AND A DARK, SCARLET FORM SEEMS TO FLOAT FROM TREE TO TREE, AND AS IT PASSES INTO THE DELICATE GLOW OF MOONLIGHT WE SEE--
--DAREDEVIL!
OKAY, SO I'M HERE ALREADY.
WHOEVER SENT THAT NOTE OBVIOUSLY WANTS ME TO SWEAT A BIT--
--EITHER THAT, OR HE COULDN'T GET A CAB!
CRACK
WAIT-- BELOW--!
CHOMP!
IT'S THE SCORPION!
GOOD GUESS, HORN-HEAD-- --TOO BAD IT'S THE LAST YOU'LL EVER MAKE!

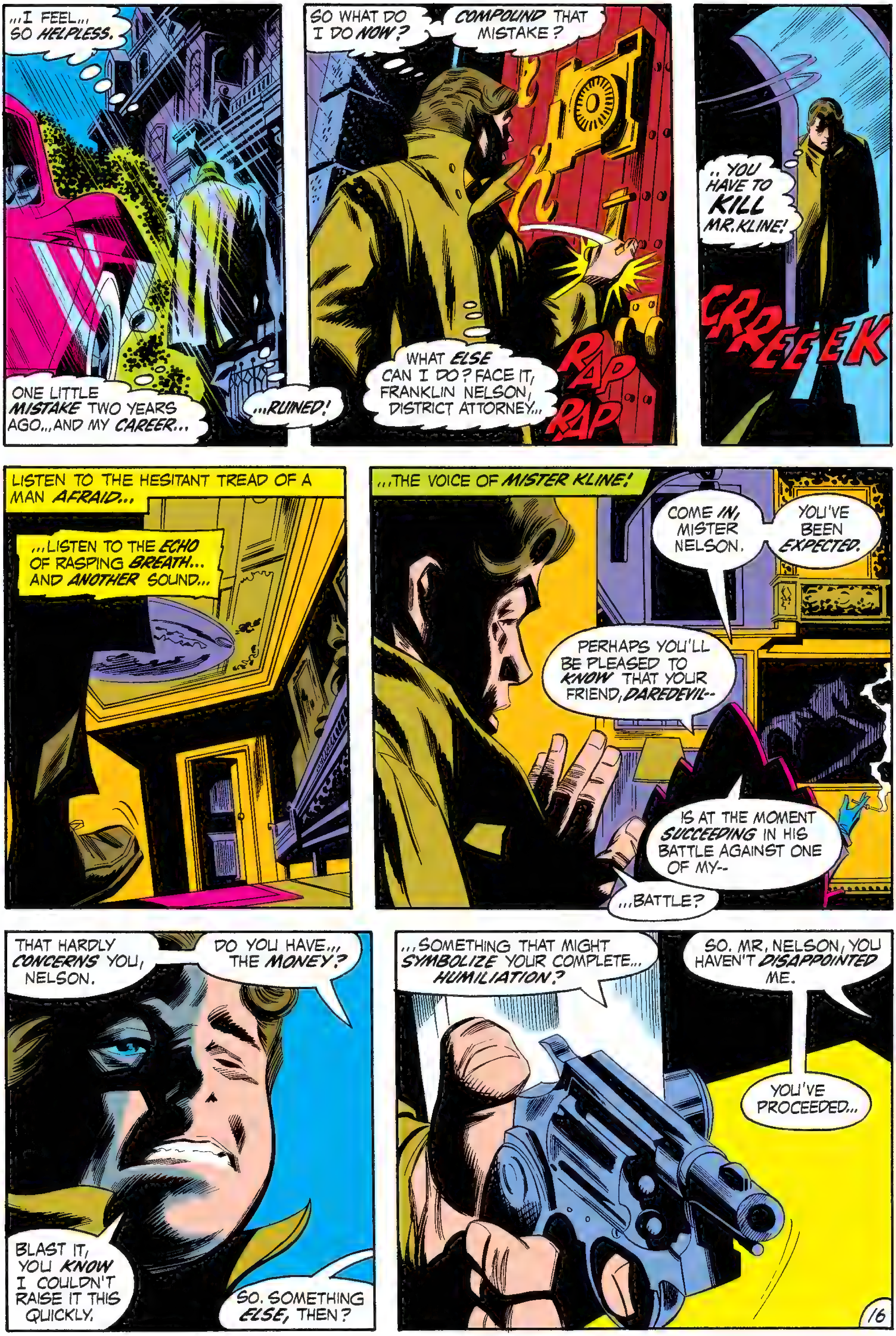

THEN IT'S *YOU!*
BUT THE LAST I HEARD-- YOU WERE IN *PRISON--*
--CAPTURED BY *CAPTAIN AMERICA!*
GONNA BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU *HEAR,* BRIGHT EYES?
SURE THEY *GOT* ME--
--BUT GETTIN' ME AND *KEEPIN'* ME ARE TWO DIFFERENT *THINGS,* SWEETHEART.
YOU... *ESCAPED?*
CAN SENSE HIS *HEARTBEAT--* HE'S *TENSING--*
IN A MANNER 'A *SPEAKIN'--*
--YEAH!
WHOMP
THRAK
SO I MISSED YA *ONCE,* PRETTY BOY--
--YA CAN'T KEEP DANCING ALL *NIGHT!*
SCORP, WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT HEROES IN *DESPERATION--*
--COULD FILL AT LEAST *HALF* THE ENCYCLOPEDIA *BRITTANIA!*
WORDS, LOOSE MOUTH... LOTSA BIG *WORDS!*
IT DON'T COME DOWN TO *NOTHING--*
--WHEN YOU'RE DEAD!

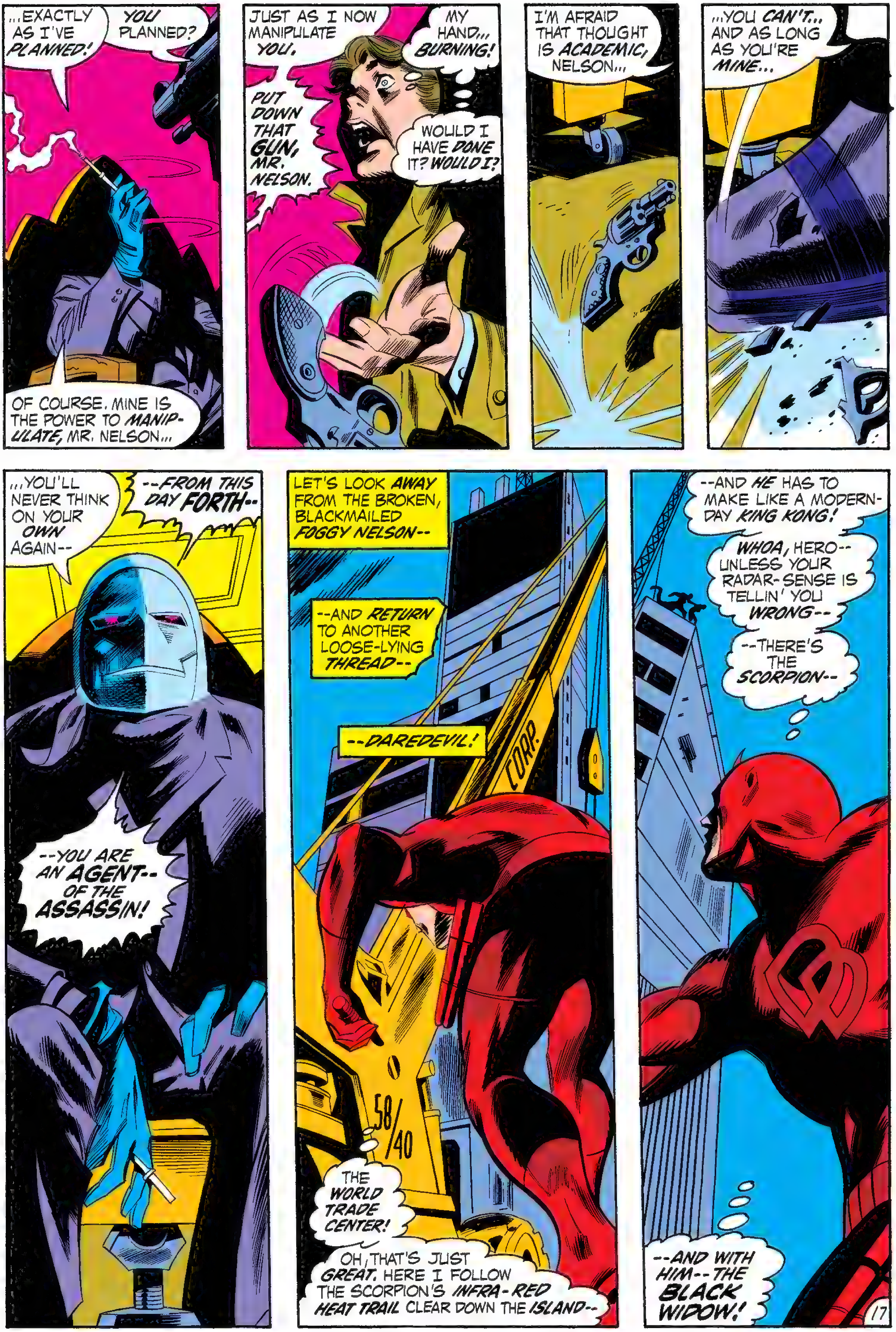

SURE... BUT LOOK AT IT *THIS* WAY...
...IT KEEPS THINGS FROM GETTING *DULL!*
BUT HE'S *RIGHT*--IT'S BEEN WHAT YOU CALL A *LONG DAY*--
--AND MRS. MURDOCK'S LITTLE BOY *MATTHEW* IS *TIRED!* GOT TO GET MYSELF A *BREATHER*--
WHHTTT
--AND THAT'S WHERE MY BRAND-NEW, FACTORY TESTED *BILLY CLUB* COMES IN!
MUSCLES STRAINING, *DD* LEAPS--AND AS THOSE OF YOU WHO TOOK *PHYSICS* KNOW--
--CENTRIFUGAL FORCE DOES *WONDERS* ALL ON ITS EVER-LOVIN' *OWN!*
HUNH?
NOW WE'RE PLAYIN' *KANGAROO*, EH, LAWYER-MAN?
WRONG, SCORP!
NOW WE PLAY THE GAME-- *MY WAY!*
BAAAAD SCENE, MATTHEW.
VIIP
ACCORDING TO THAT LAST *WISECRACK* OF HIS--
"--*LAWYER-MAN*"--
--*HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE!*

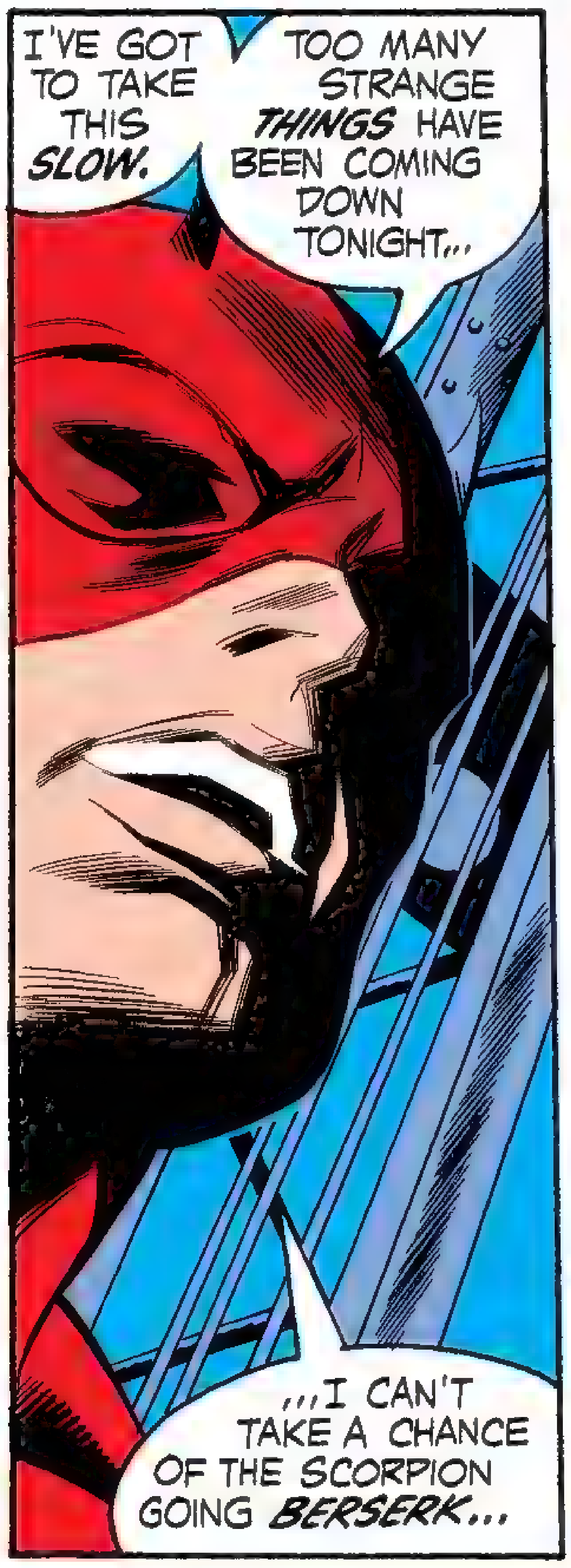

FRIEND, YOU MADE YOUR *LAST* GRANDSTAND PLAY.
'CAUSE NOW I'M GONNA SNAP YOU IN *TWO!*
JUST *TRY,* PAL--
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU *DO IT*--
WAK
--SPORTING A MOUTH FULL OF *LOOSE TEETH!*
UNNNH!
CORRECTION--BABY HERE MOVES LIKE A LOVIN' *BOOMERANG!*
WHAT'D YOU SAY *EARLIER,* HERO? "*LIKE A CHARM?*"
UH-OH, DD--WATCH OUT *BEHIND*--
SORRY, HERO--YOU MOVED TOO *LITTLE*--
CHOK
--AND YOU MOVED--*TOO LATE!*
SO NOW YOU WHIRLPOOL INTO *DARKNESS*--
--AND MAYBE YOU'RE *WONDERING,* JUST A *BIT*--

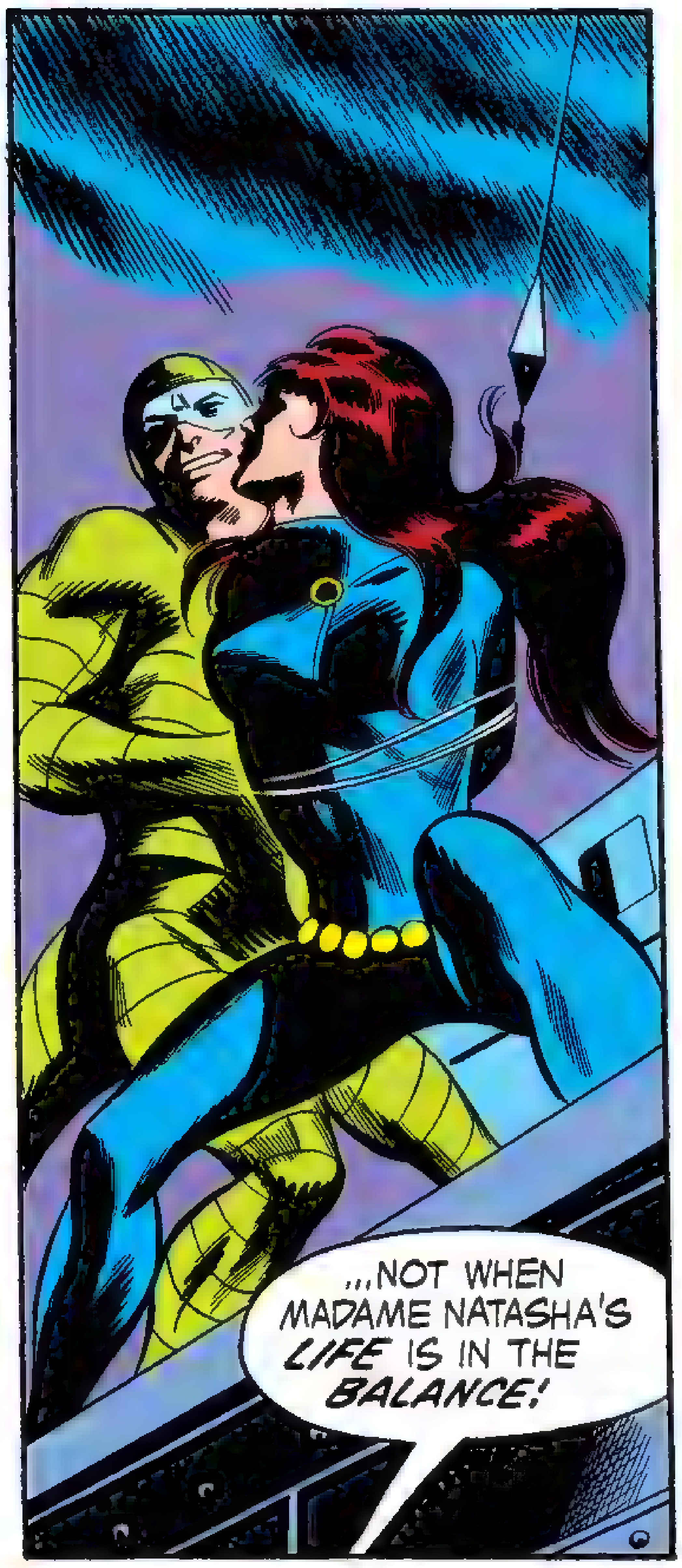

--HOW THE SCORPION RECOVERED--SO FAST!
AND SPEAKING OF RECOVERING--
TOO BAD WE HAVE TO CALL IT QUITS, BRIGHT EYES--
--BUT AFTER ALL, I CAN'T SAY IT'S BEEN FUN--
--TO A MAN I'M GONNA KILL!
SECONDS, DD--ONLY SECONDS IN WHICH TO MOVE--
--AND MOVE, THIS TIME--ON TIME!
HUH?
HEY!
TOK
BLAM
AS STENGEL MIGHT'VE SAID, BABY-BLUES...
...THERE GOES THE BALL GAME!
WAIT... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO HIM. ALL AT ONCE... HE STOPPED...
...AND NOW HE'S STARING INTO SPACE...
...AS THOUGH LOOKING FOR SOMEONE...
...OR MAYBE, HUNCH-MASTER... SOMETHING!

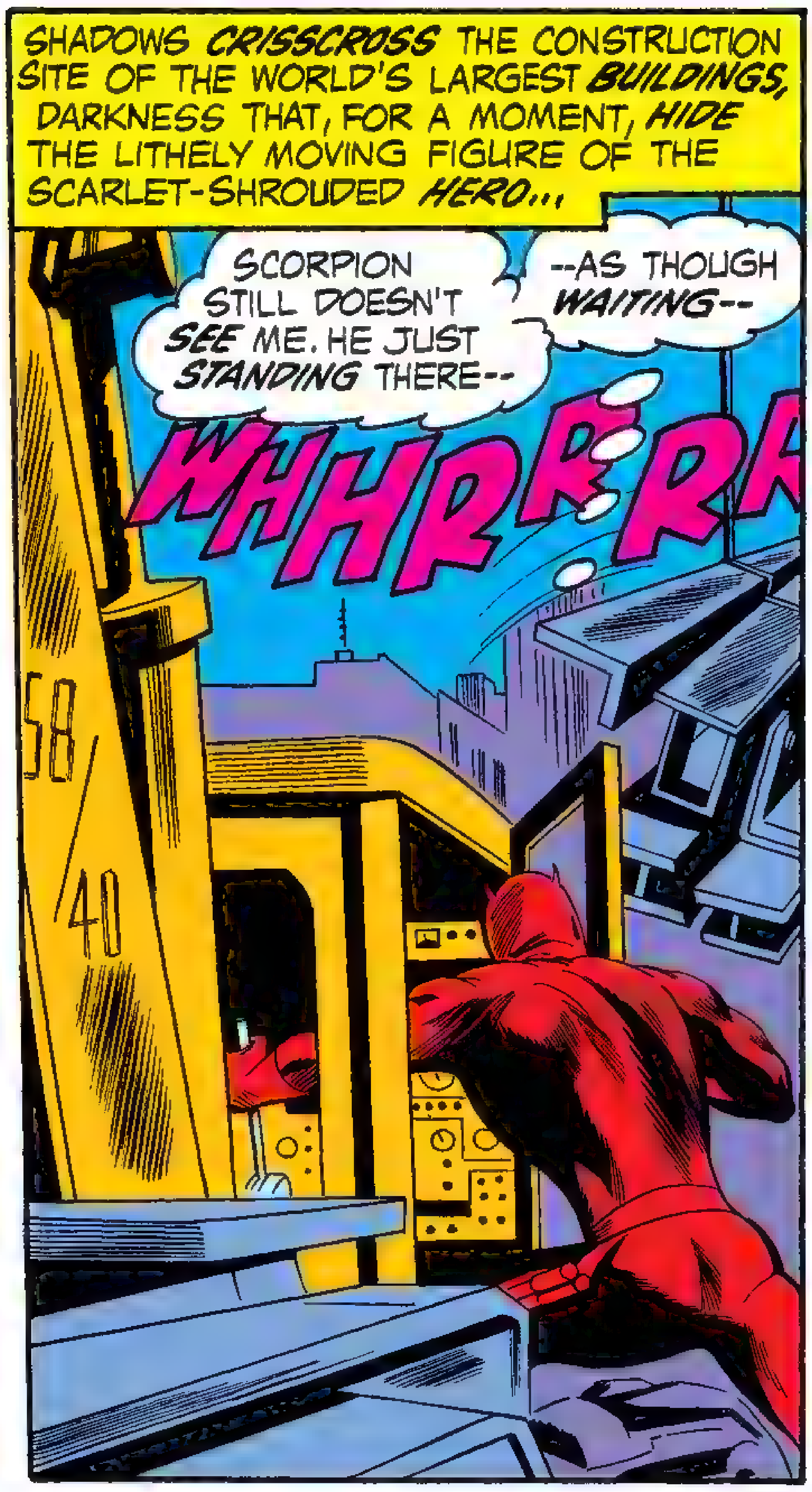

UH-OH... NOW HE'S TURNING HEEL--GETTING *AWAY.*
NOT MUCH CHANCE OF CATCHING *UP* WITH HIM--NOT SO LONG AS THESE *VINES* KEEP HOLDING ME *DOWN.*
AND EVEN WHEN I GET *FREE--*
--GONE.
THERE'RE A LOTTA THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE *SENSE,* MATTHEW...
...AND *ONE* OF THEM'S THIS SUPER *WATER PISTOL.*
SINCE *WHEN* DOES THE SCORPION PLAY *SCIENCE BOY?*
AHH, BUT THERE ARE WHEELS WITHIN *WHEELS,* MR. MURDOCK...
...AND *ONE* OF THOSE WHEELS IS ABOUT TO COMPLETE... ITS FIRST *FULL TURN!*
OBSERVE... ON A LONELY *LONG ISLAND ROAD* SOMEWHERE NEAR *NORTH SHORE*...
...AS A MAN KNOWN TO US AS *FOGGY NELSON* MAKES HIS HALTING WAY THROUGH THE *DRIZZLE* OF AN EVENING RAIN.
FOLLOWING THOSE INSTRUCTIONS *IMPLICITLY...*
...AND AS THOUGH MY LUCK WEREN'T BAD *ENOUGH...*
...I SEEM TO HAVE FOUND THE *PLACE!*
SO WHAT DO I DO *NOW?* MR. KLINE MUST *KNOW* I HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING *CLOSE* TO A HUNDRED THOUSAND *DOLLARS!*
LORD...
AND UNLESS THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DRASTICALLY *DIFFERENT* FROM WHAT THEY'VE *BEEN--* THAT *WON'T* BE THE TOP *FIGURE!*

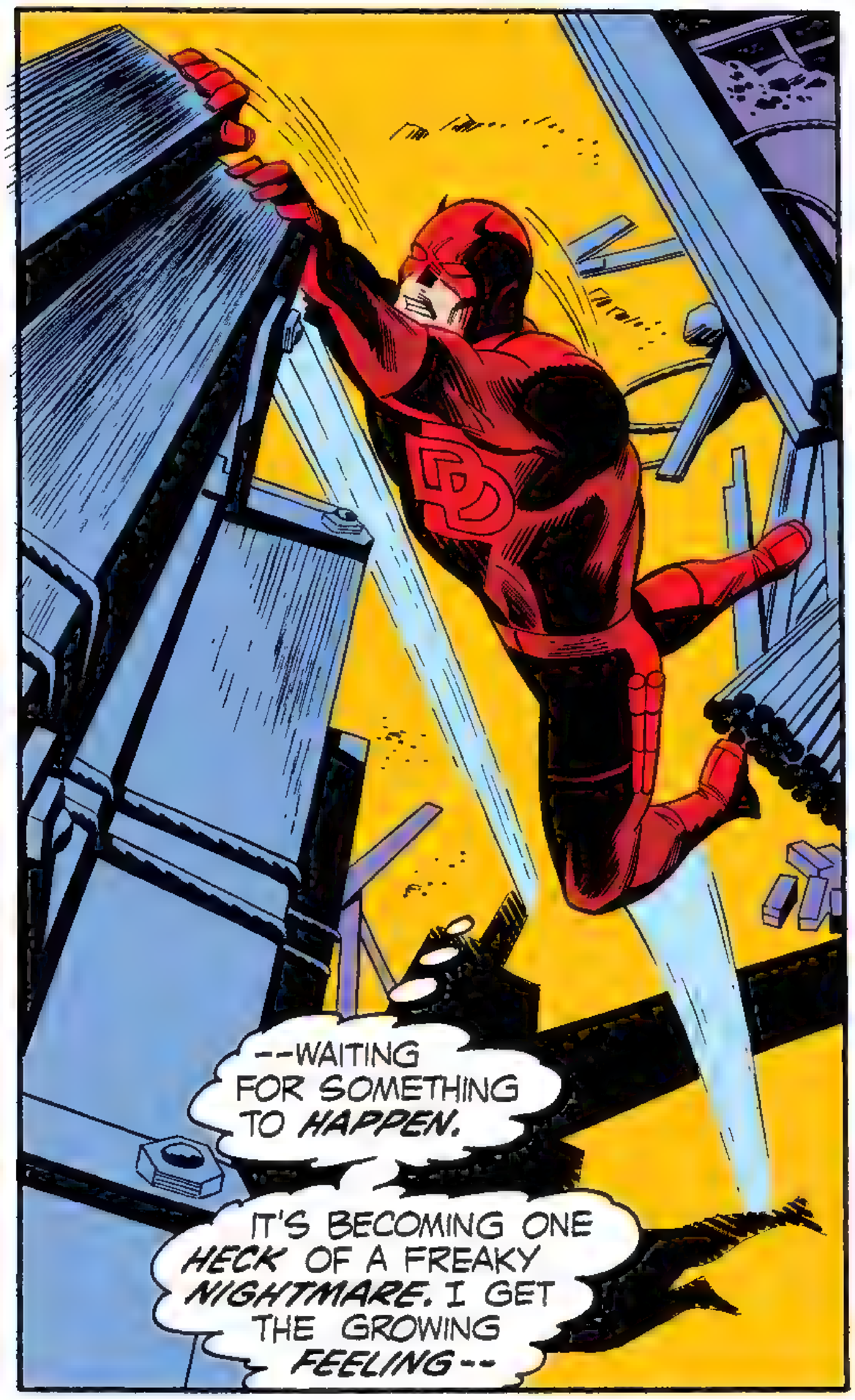

...I FEEL... SO HELPLESS.
ONE LITTLE MISTAKE TWO YEARS AGO... AND MY CAREER...
...RUINED!
SO WHAT DO I DO NOW?
COMPOUND THAT MISTAKE?
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? FACE IT, FRANKLIN NELSON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY...
RAP RAP
.. YOU HAVE TO KILL MR. KLINE!
CRREEEK
LISTEN TO THE HESITANT TREAD OF A MAN AFRAID...
...LISTEN TO THE ECHO OF RASPING BREATH... AND ANOTHER SOUND...
...THE VOICE OF MISTER KLINE!
COME IN, MISTER NELSON.
YOU'VE BEEN EXPECTED.
PERHAPS YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT YOUR FRIEND, DAREDEVIL--
IS AT THE MOMENT SUCCEEDING IN HIS BATTLE AGAINST ONE OF MY--
...BATTLE?
THAT HARDLY CONCERNS YOU, NELSON.
DO YOU HAVE... THE MONEY?
BLAST IT, YOU KNOW I COULDN'T RAISE IT THIS QUICKLY.
SO. SOMETHING ELSE, THEN?
...SOMETHING THAT MIGHT SYMBOLIZE YOUR COMPLETE... HUMILIATION?
SO. MR. NELSON, YOU HAVEN'T DISAPPOINTED ME.
YOU'VE PROCEEDED...

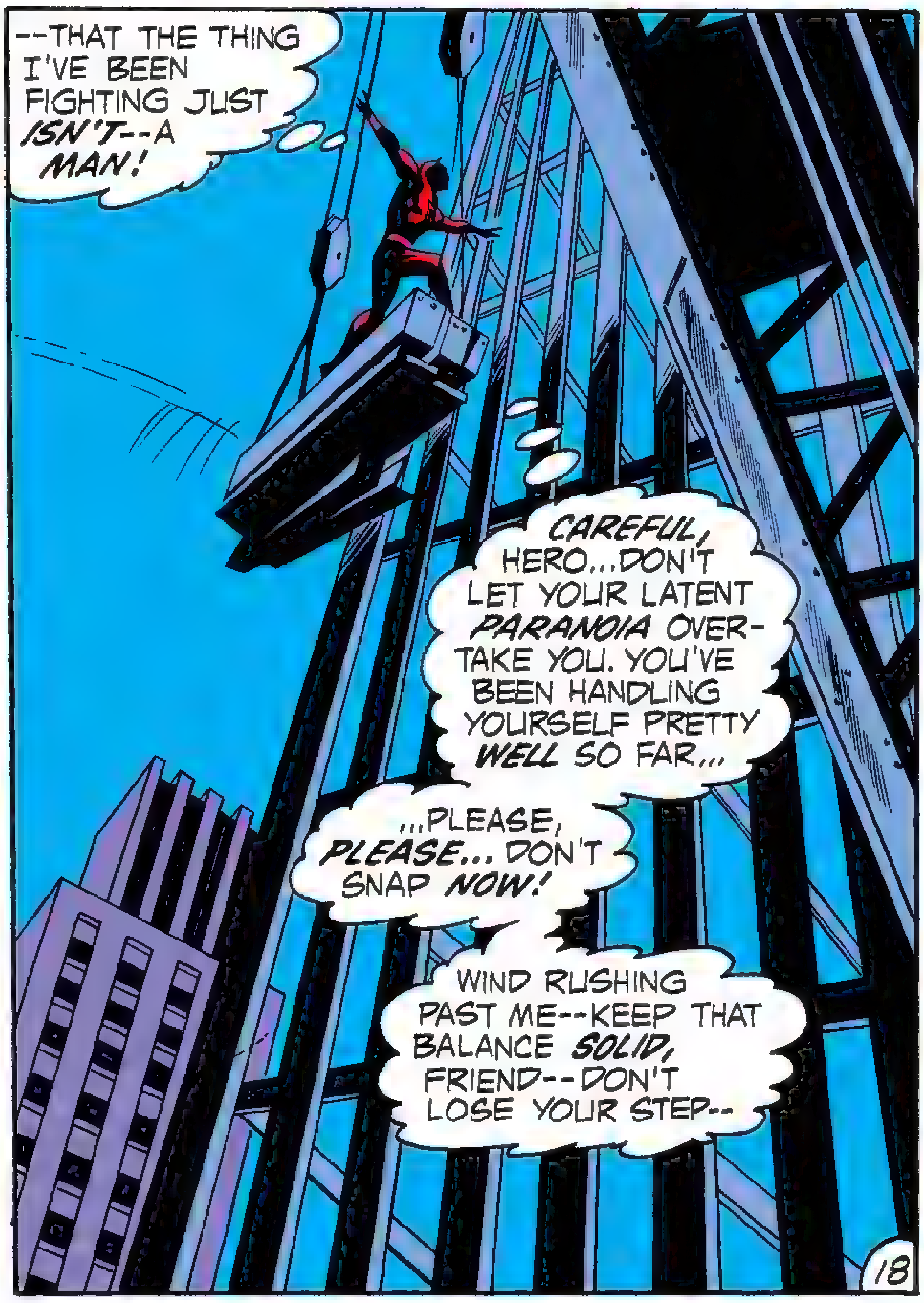

...EXACTLY AS I'VE *PLANNED!*
YOU PLANNED?
OF COURSE. MINE IS THE POWER TO *MANIPULATE,* MR. NELSON...
JUST AS I NOW MANIPULATE *YOU.*
MY HAND... *BURNING!*
PUT DOWN THAT GUN, MR. NELSON.
WOULD I HAVE *DONE* IT? *WOULD I?*
I'M AFRAID THAT THOUGHT IS *ACADEMIC,* NELSON...
...YOU *CAN'T*... AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE *MINE*...
...YOU'LL NEVER THINK ON YOUR *OWN* AGAIN--
--FROM THIS DAY FORTH--
--YOU ARE AN AGENT-- OF THE ASSASSIN!
LET'S LOOK *AWAY* FROM THE BROKEN, BLACKMAILED *FOGGY NELSON--*
--AND *RETURN* TO ANOTHER LOOSE-LYING *THREAD--*
--DAREDEVIL!
CORP.
58/40
THE *WORLD TRADE CENTER!*
OH, THAT'S JUST *GREAT.* HERE I FOLLOW THE SCORPION'S *INFRA-RED HEAT TRAIL* CLEAR DOWN THE *ISLAND--*
--AND *HE* HAS TO MAKE LIKE A MODERN-DAY *KING KONG!*
WHOA, HERO-- UNLESS YOUR RADAR-SENSE IS TELLIN' YOU *WRONG--*
--THERE'S THE *SCORPION--*
--AND WITH HIM-- THE BLACK WIDOW!

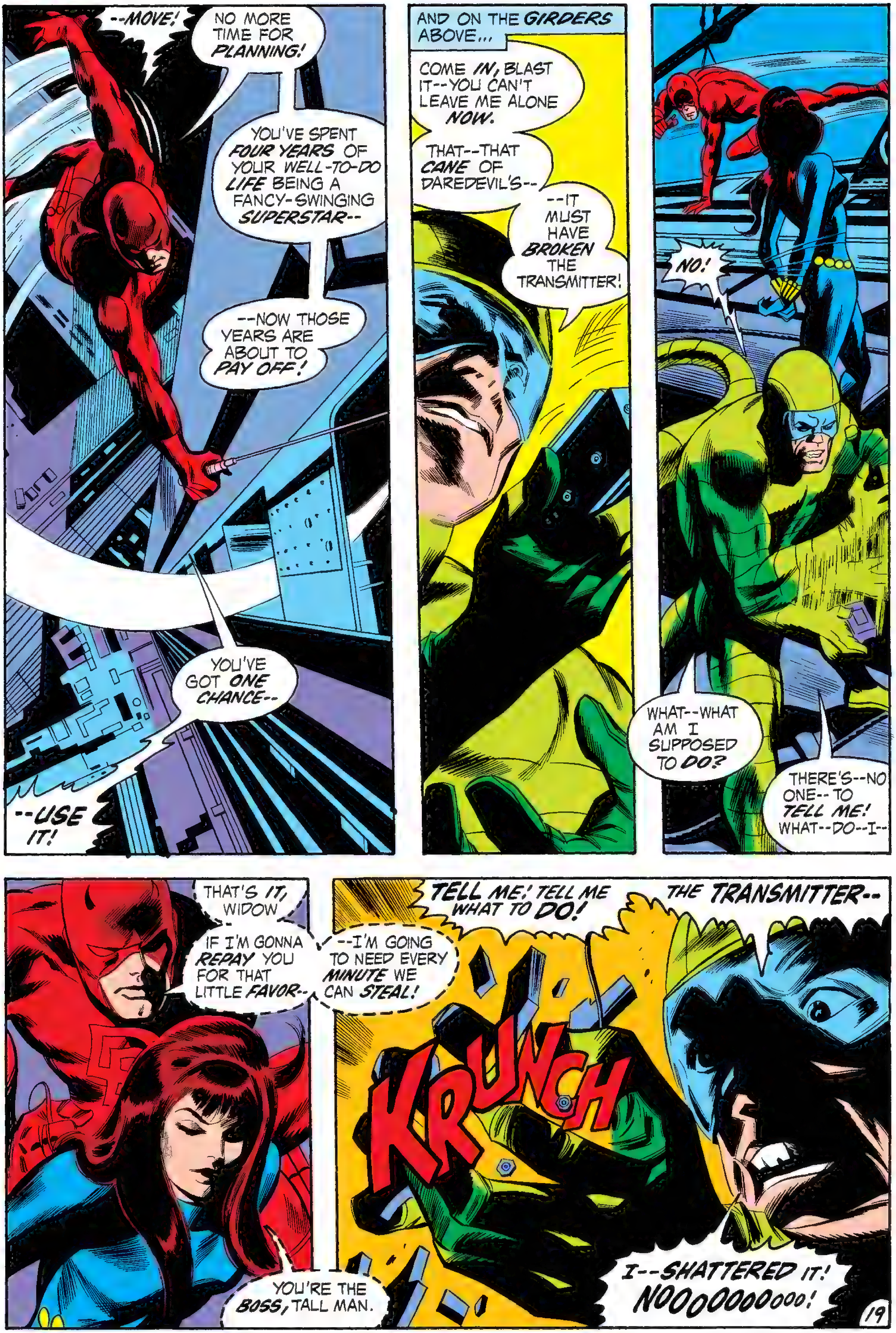

I'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS *SLOW.*
TOO MANY STRANGE *THINGS* HAVE BEEN COMING DOWN TONIGHT...
...I CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE OF THE SCORPION GOING *BERSERK...*

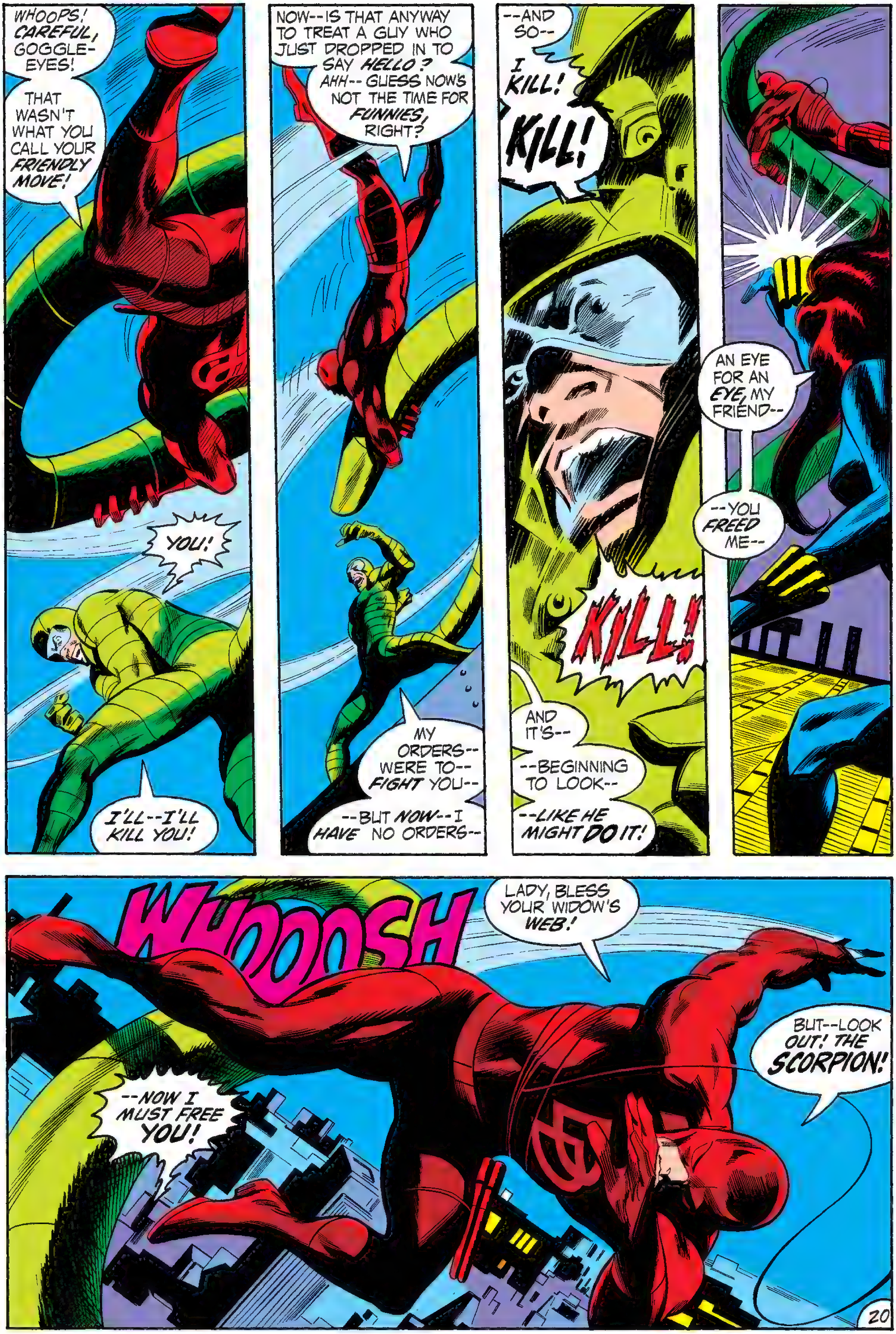

...NOT WHEN MADAME NATASHA'S *LIFE* IS IN THE *BALANCE!*

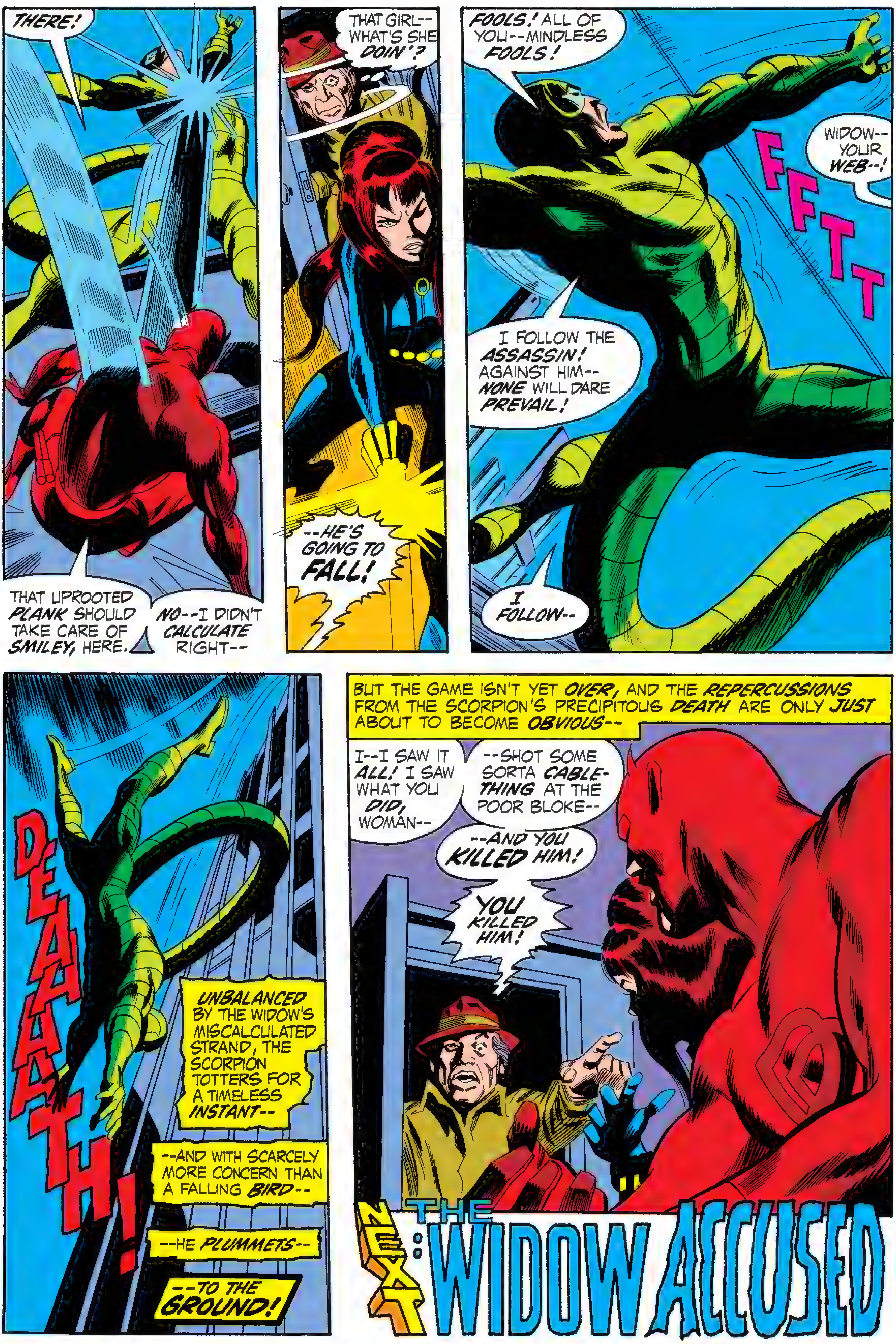

SHADOWS *CRISSCROSS* THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST *BUILDINGS,* DARKNESS THAT, FOR A MOMENT, *HIDE* THE LITHELY MOVING FIGURE OF THE SCARLET-SHROUDED *HERO...*
SCORPION STILL DOESN'T *SEE* ME. HE JUST *STANDING* THERE--
--AS THOUGH *WAITING--*
WHHRRRR
58/40


--WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO *HAPPEN.*
IT'S BECOMING ONE *HECK* OF A FREAKY *NIGHTMARE.* I GET THE GROWING *FEELING--*


--THAT THE THING I'VE BEEN FIGHTING JUST *ISN'T*--A *MAN!*
CAREFUL, HERO...DON'T LET YOUR LATENT *PARANOIA* OVER-TAKE YOU. YOU'VE BEEN HANDLING YOURSELF PRETTY *WELL* SO FAR...
...PLEASE, *PLEASE...* DON'T SNAP *NOW!*
WIND RUSHING PAST ME--KEEP THAT BALANCE *SOLID,* FRIEND--DON'T LOSE YOUR STEP--


--MOVE!
NO MORE TIME FOR *PLANNING!*
YOU'VE SPENT *FOUR YEARS* OF YOUR *WELL-TO-DO LIFE* BEING A FANCY-SWINGING *SUPERSTAR*--
--NOW THOSE YEARS ARE ABOUT TO *PAY OFF!*
YOU'VE GOT *ONE CHANCE*--
--*USE IT!*
AND ON THE *GIRDERS* ABOVE...
COME *IN*, BLAST IT--YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME ALONE *NOW.*
THAT--THAT *CANE* OF DAREDEVIL'S--
--IT MUST HAVE *BROKEN* THE TRANSMITTER!
NO!
WHAT--WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO *DO?*
THERE'S--NO ONE--TO *TELL ME!* WHAT--DO--I--
THAT'S *IT*, WIDOW
IF I'M GONNA *REPAY* YOU FOR THAT LITTLE *FAVOR*--
--I'M GOING TO NEED EVERY *MINUTE* WE CAN *STEAL!*
YOU'RE THE *BOSS*, TALL MAN.
TELL ME! TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
THE TRANSMITTER--
KRUNCH
I--SHATTERED IT! NOOOOOOOOOO!


WHOOPS! CAREFUL, GOGGLE-EYES!
THAT WASN'T WHAT YOU CALL YOUR FRIENDLY MOVE!
YOU!
I'LL--I'LL KILL YOU!
NOW--IS THAT ANYWAY TO TREAT A GUY WHO JUST DROPPED IN TO SAY HELLO?
AHH--GUESS NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR FUNNIES, RIGHT?
MY ORDERS--WERE TO--FIGHT YOU--
--BUT NOW--I HAVE NO ORDERS--
--AND SO--
I KILL!
KILL!
KILL!
AND IT'S--
--BEGINNING TO LOOK--
--LIKE HE MIGHT DO IT!
AN EYE FOR AN EYE, MY FRIEND--
--YOU FREED ME--
WHOOOSH
--NOW I MUST FREE YOU!
LADY, BLESS YOUR WIDOW'S WEB!
BUT--LOOK OUT! THE SCORPION!


THERE!
THAT UPROOTED PLANK SHOULD TAKE CARE OF SMILEY, HERE.
NO--I DIDN'T CALCULATE RIGHT--
THAT GIRL-- WHAT'S SHE DOIN'?
--HE'S GOING TO FALL!
FOOLS! ALL OF YOU--MINDLESS FOOLS!
WIDOW-- YOUR WEB--!
FFFTT
I FOLLOW THE ASSASSIN! AGAINST HIM-- NONE WILL DARE PREVAIL!
I FOLLOW--
DEAAAATH!
UNBALANCED BY THE WIDOW'S MISCALCULATED STRAND, THE SCORPION TOTTERS FOR A TIMELESS INSTANT--
--AND WITH SCARCELY MORE CONCERN THAN A FALLING BIRD--
--HE PLUMMETS--
--TO THE GROUND!
BUT THE GAME ISN'T YET OVER, AND THE REPERCUSSIONS FROM THE SCORPION'S PRECIPITOUS DEATH ARE ONLY JUST ABOUT TO BECOME OBVIOUS--
I--I SAW IT ALL! I SAW WHAT YOU DID, WOMAN--
--SHOT SOME SORTA CABLE-THING AT THE POOR BLOKE--
--AND YOU KILLED HIM!
YOU KILLED HIM!
NEXT: THE WIDOW ACCUSED

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DAREDEVIL™

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

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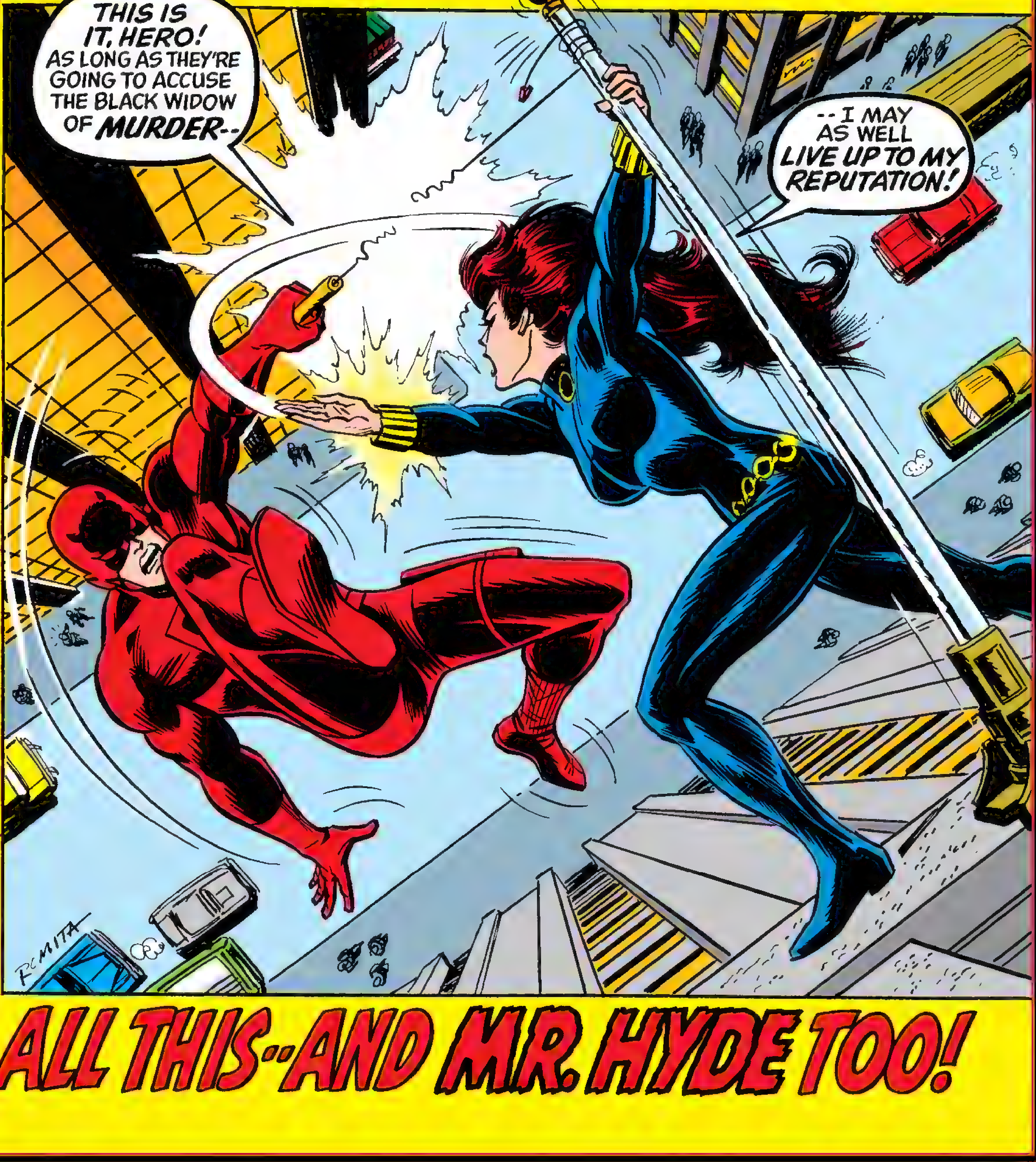
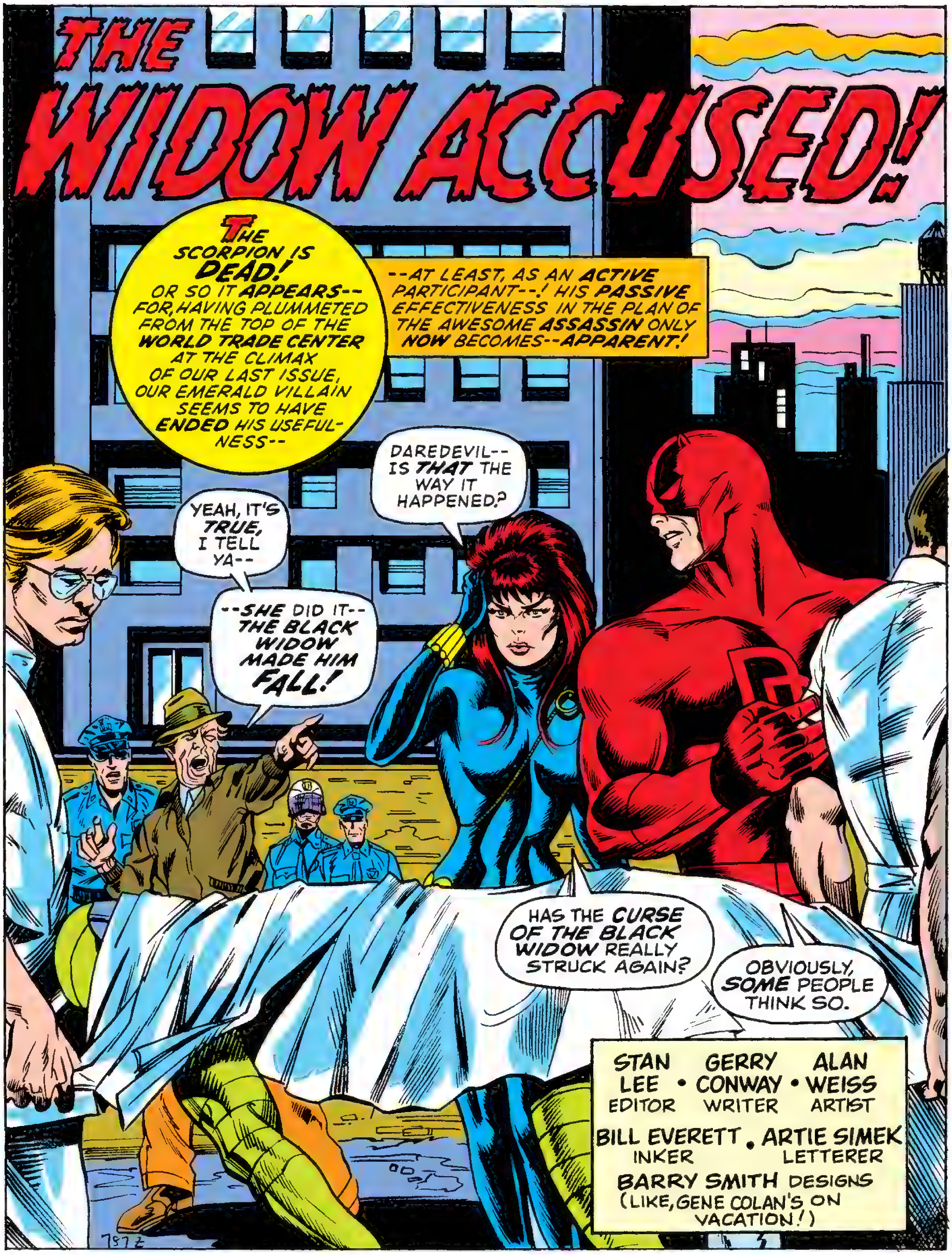
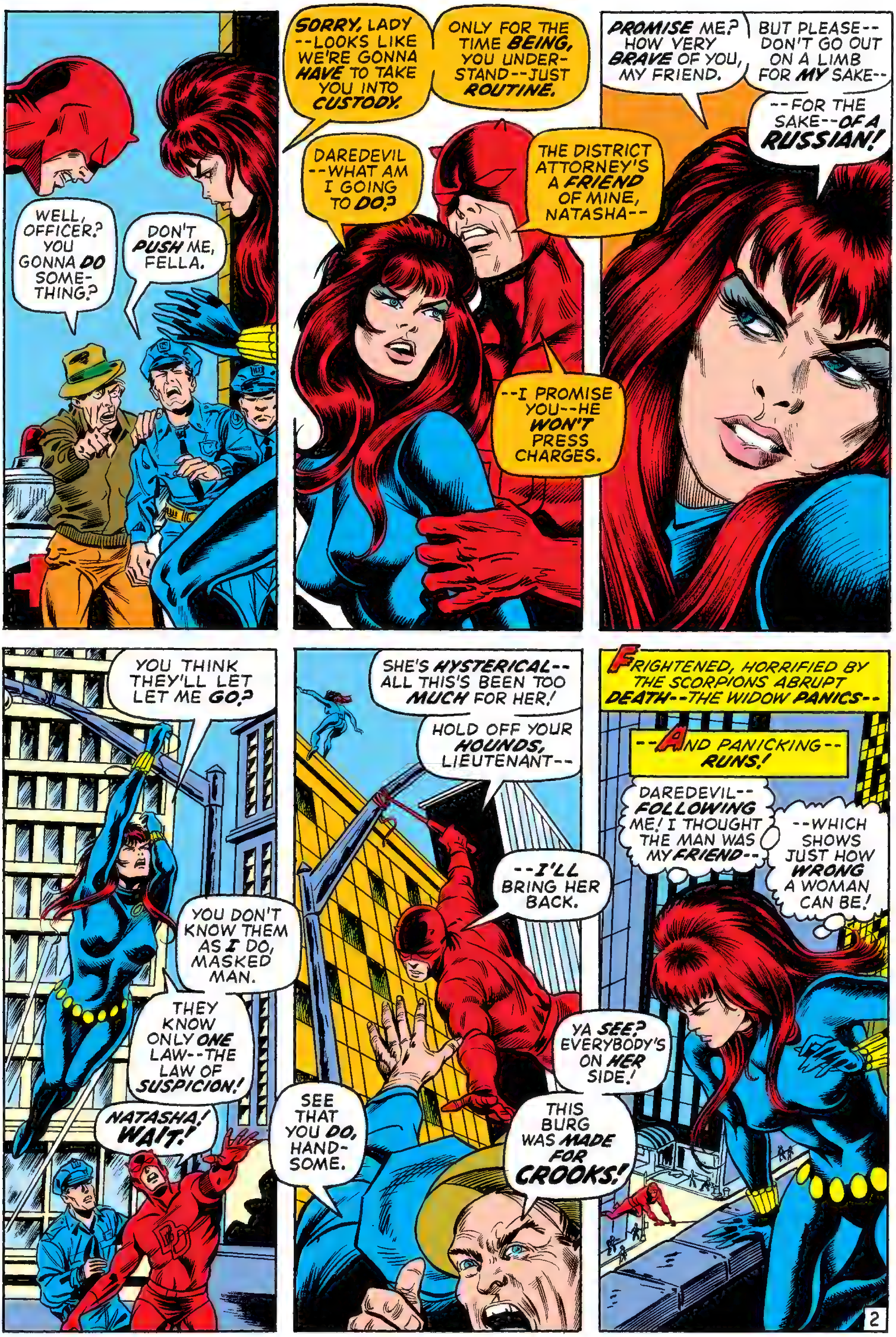
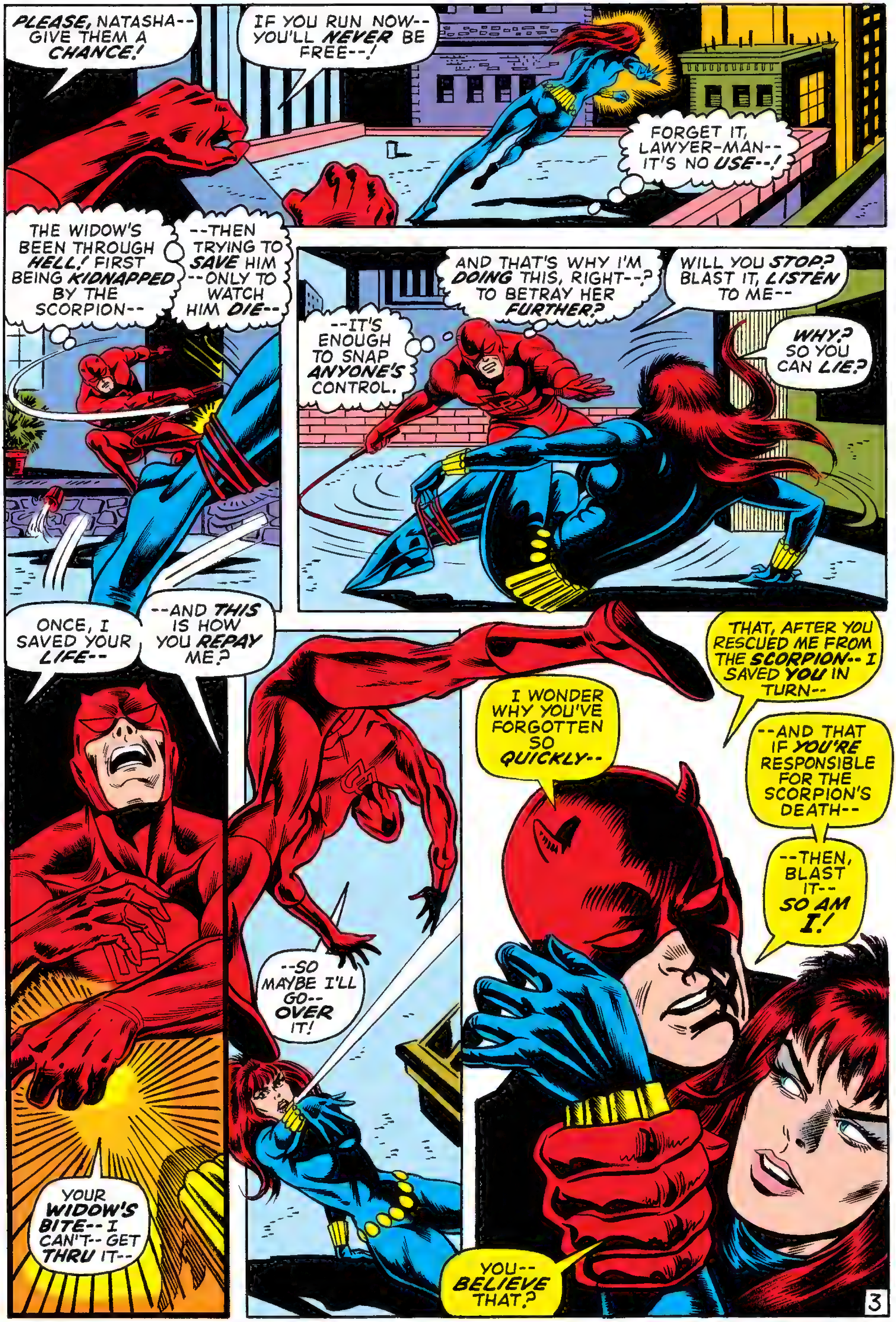

THIS IS IT, HERO! AS LONG AS THEY'RE GOING TO ACCUSE THE BLACK WIDOW OF *MURDER*--
-- I MAY AS WELL *LIVE UP TO MY REPUTATION!*
ROMITA

ALL THIS--AND MR. HYDE TOO!

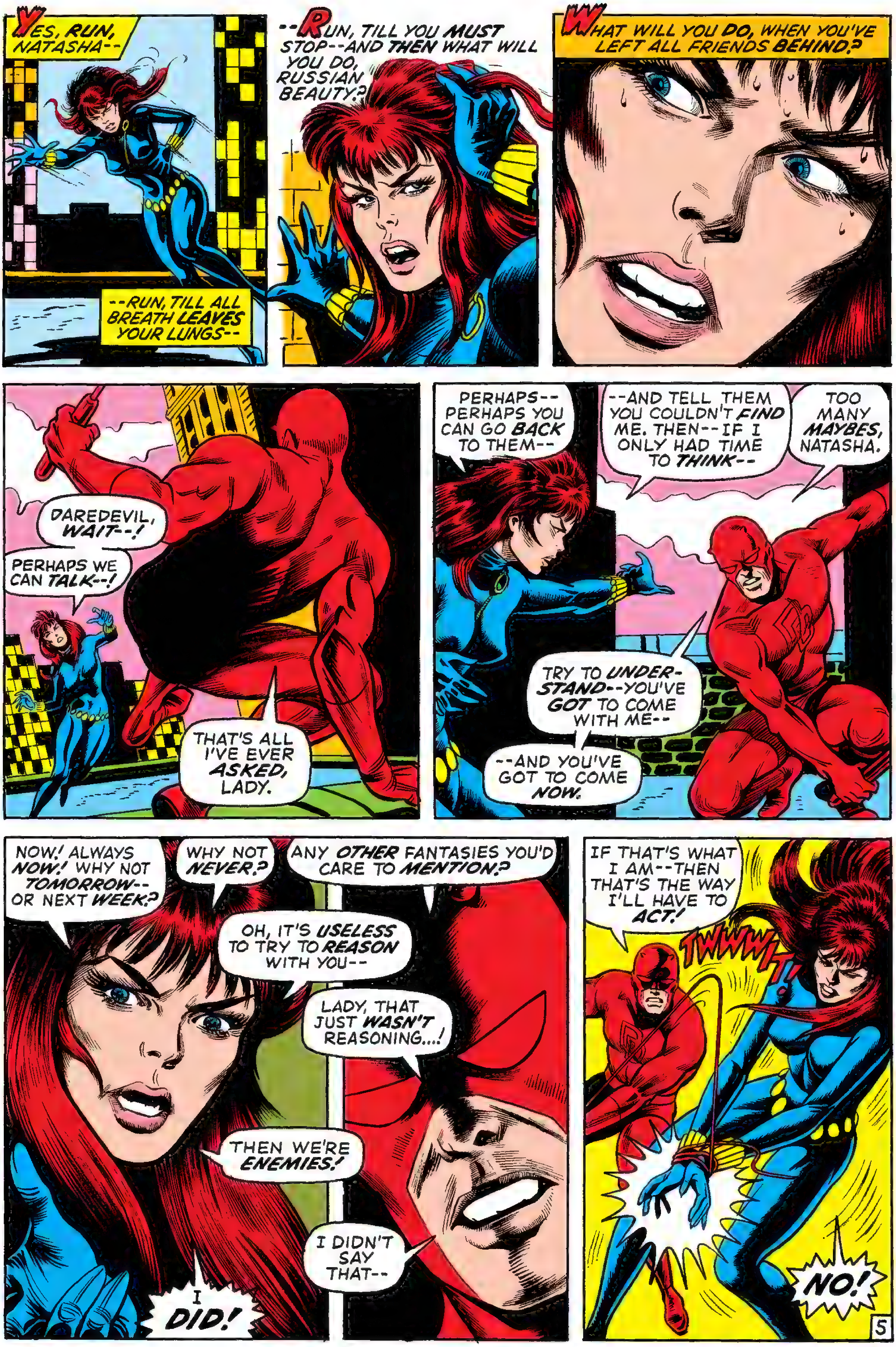
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

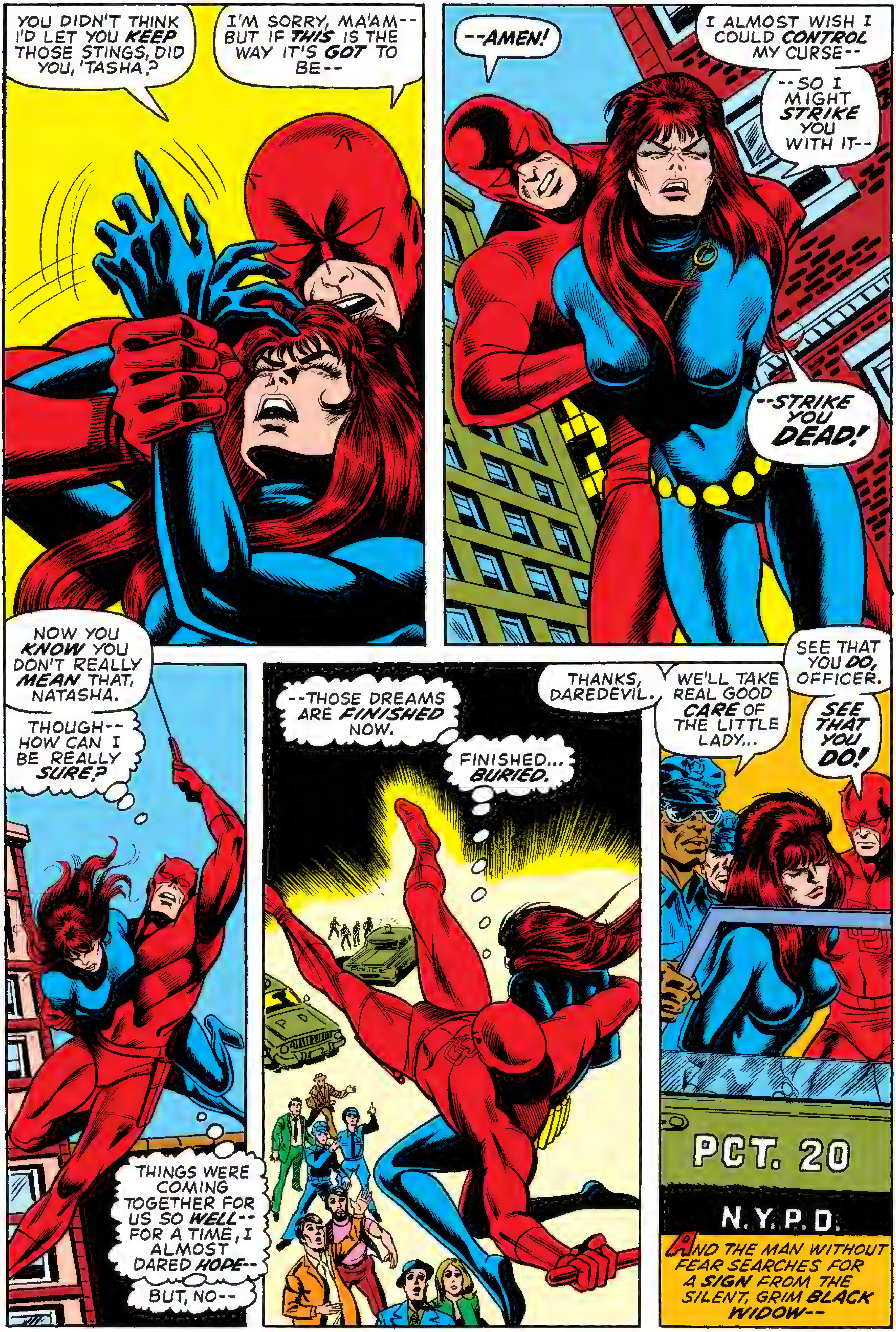

THE WIDOW ACCUSED!
THE SCORPION IS DEAD! OR SO IT APPEARS-- FOR, HAVING PLUMMETED FROM THE TOP OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AT THE CLIMAX OF OUR LAST ISSUE, OUR EMERALD VILLAIN SEEMS TO HAVE ENDED HIS USEFULNESS--
--AT LEAST, AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT--! HIS PASSIVE EFFECTIVENESS IN THE PLAN OF THE AWESOME ASSASSIN ONLY NOW BECOMES--APPARENT!
YEAH, IT'S TRUE, I TELL YA--
--SHE DID IT-- THE BLACK WIDOW MADE HIM FALL!
DAREDEVIL-- IS THAT THE WAY IT HAPPENED?
HAS THE CURSE OF THE BLACK WIDOW REALLY STRUCK AGAIN?
OBVIOUSLY, SOME PEOPLE THINK SO.
STAN LEE • GERRY CONWAY • ALAN WEISS
EDITOR WRITER ARTIST
BILL EVERETT • ARTIE SIMEK
INKER LETTERER
BARRY SMITH DESIGNS
(LIKE, GENE COLAN'S ON VACATION!)

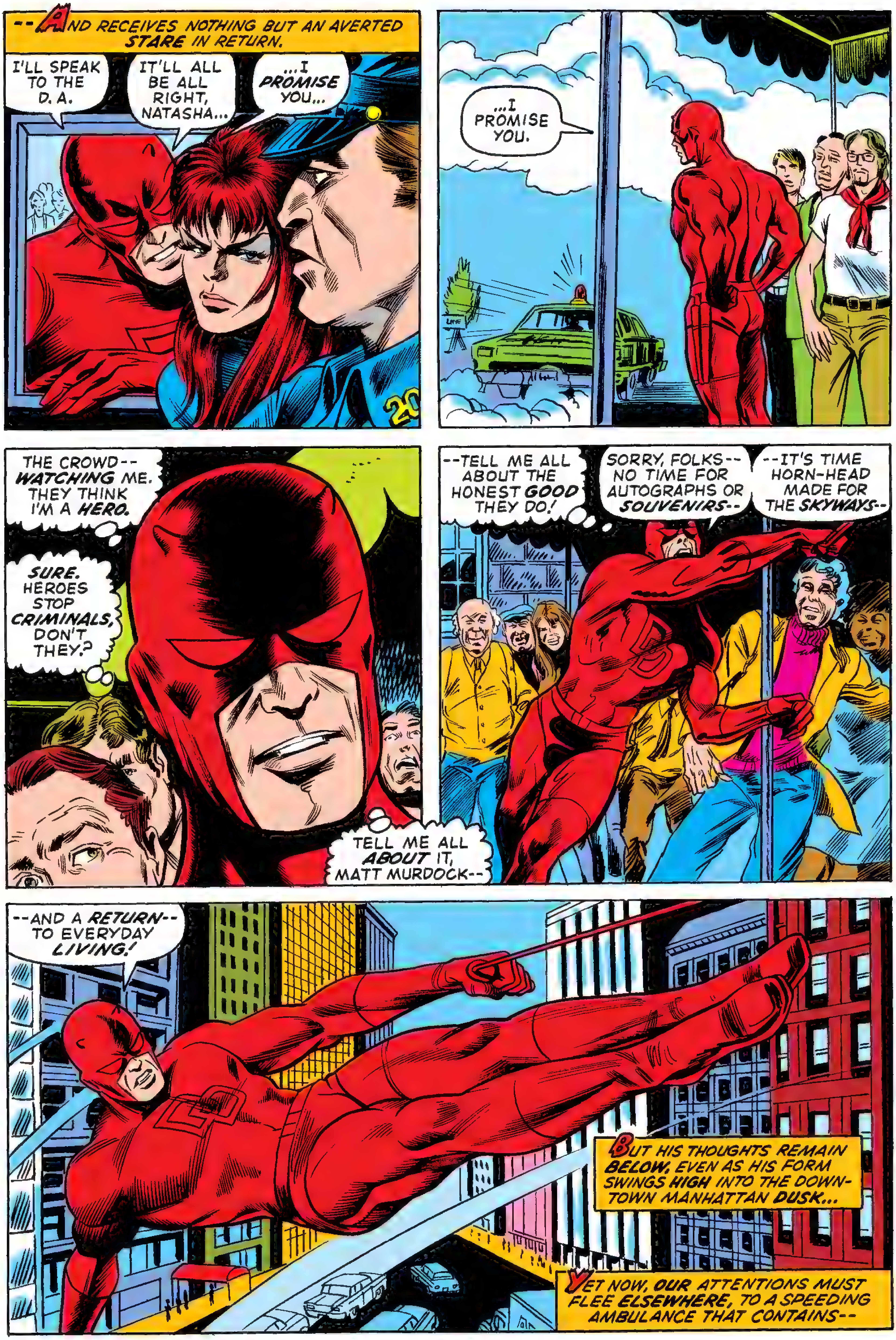

WELL, OFFICER? YOU GONNA **DO** SOME-THING?
DON'T **PUSH** ME, FELLA.
SORRY, LADY --LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA **HAVE** TO TAKE YOU INTO **CUSTODY.**
ONLY FOR THE TIME **BEING,** YOU UNDER-STAND--JUST **ROUTINE.**
DAREDEVIL --WHAT AM I GOING TO **DO?**
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S A **FRIEND** OF MINE, NATASHA--
--I PROMISE YOU--HE **WON'T** PRESS CHARGES.
PROMISE ME? HOW VERY **BRAVE** OF YOU, MY FRIEND.
BUT PLEASE-- DON'T GO OUT ON A LIMB FOR **MY** SAKE--
--FOR THE SAKE--**OF A RUSSIAN!**
YOU THINK THEY'LL LET LET ME **GO?**
YOU DON'T KNOW THEM AS **I** DO, MASKED MAN.
THEY KNOW ONLY **ONE** LAW--THE LAW OF **SUSPICION!**
NATASHA! WAIT!
SHE'S **HYSTERICAL**-- ALL THIS'S BEEN TOO **MUCH** FOR HER!
HOLD OFF YOUR **HOUNDS,** LIEUTENANT--
--**I'LL** BRING HER BACK.
SEE THAT YOU **DO,** HAND-SOME.
YA **SEE?** EVERYBODY'S ON **HER** SIDE!
THIS BURG WAS **MADE FOR CROOKS!**
FRIGHTENED, HORRIFIED BY THE SCORPIONS ABRUPT **DEATH**--THE WIDOW **PANICS**--
--AND PANICKING-- **RUNS!**
DAREDEVIL-- **FOLLOWING** ME! I THOUGHT THE MAN WAS MY **FRIEND**--
--WHICH SHOWS JUST HOW **WRONG** A WOMAN CAN BE!

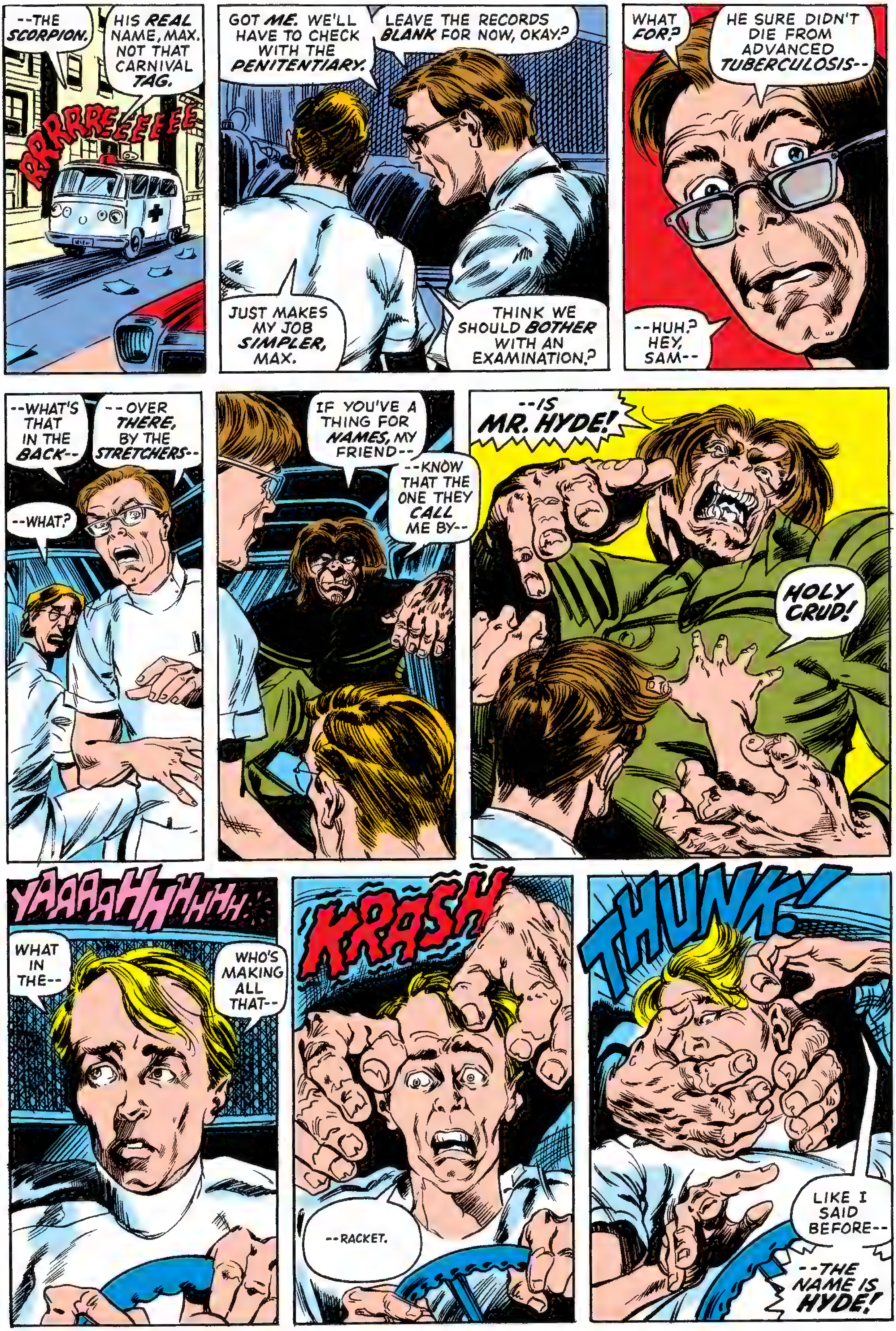

PLEASE, NATASHA-- GIVE THEM A CHANCE!
IF YOU RUN NOW-- YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE--!
FORGET IT, LAWYER-MAN-- IT'S NO USE--!
THE WIDOW'S BEEN THROUGH HELL! FIRST BEING KIDNAPPED BY THE SCORPION--
--THEN TRYING TO SAVE HIM --ONLY TO WATCH HIM DIE--
--IT'S ENOUGH TO SNAP ANYONE'S CONTROL.
AND THAT'S WHY I'M DOING THIS, RIGHT--? TO BETRAY HER FURTHER?
WILL YOU STOP? BLAST IT, LISTEN TO ME--
WHY? SO YOU CAN LIE?
ONCE, I SAVED YOUR LIFE--
--AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME?
YOUR WIDOW'S BITE-- I CAN'T-- GET THRU IT--
--SO MAYBE I'LL GO-- OVER IT!
I WONDER WHY YOU'VE FORGOTTEN SO QUICKLY--
THAT, AFTER YOU RESCUED ME FROM THE SCORPION-- I SAVED YOU IN TURN--
--AND THAT IF YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SCORPION'S DEATH--
--THEN, BLAST IT-- SO AM I!
YOU-- BELIEVE THAT?

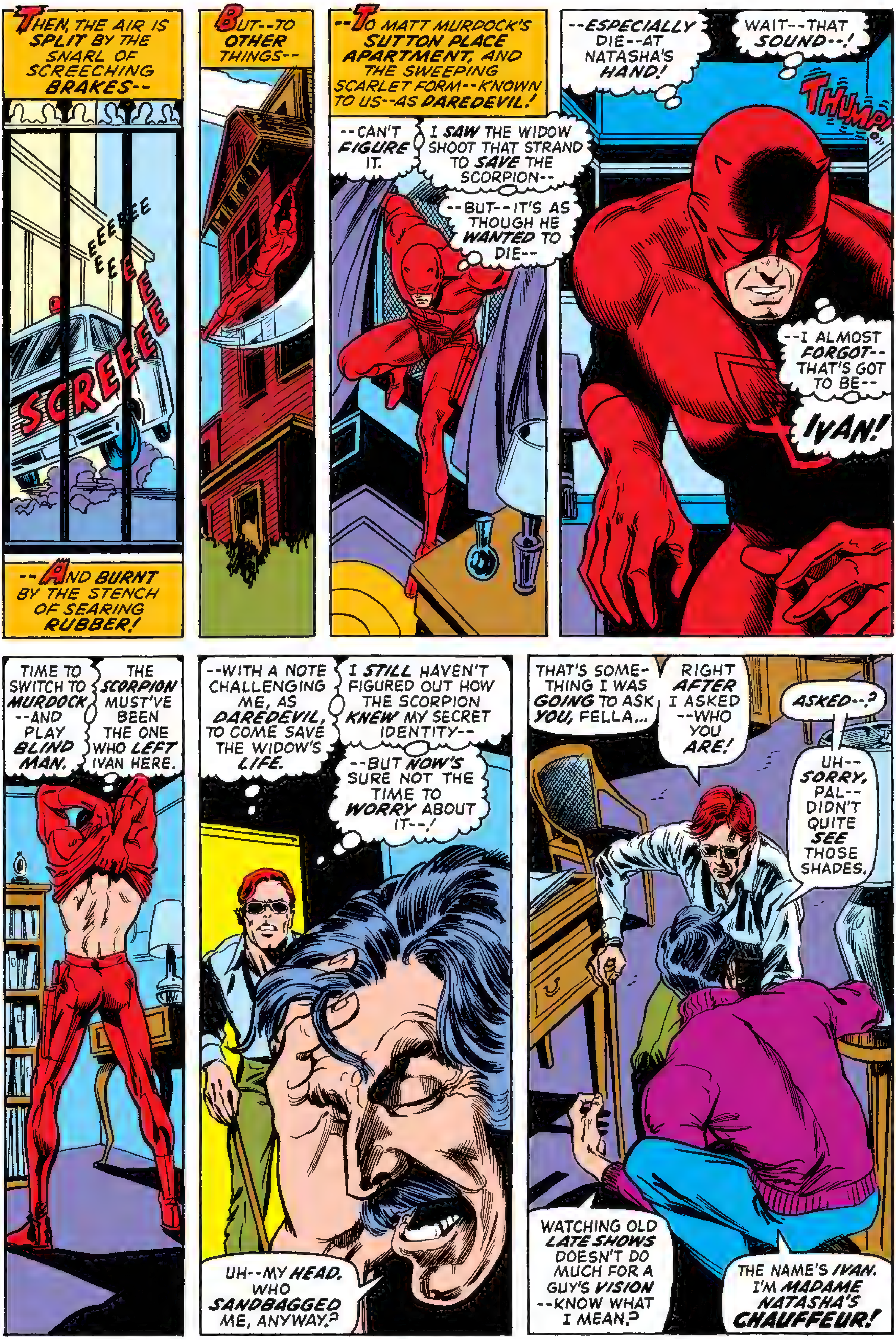
IF I DIDN'T-- WOULD I BE HERE--
--TRYING TO SAVE YOUR SILLY NECK?
NO! I CAN'T TRUST YOU--
UNNNH!
ZOK!
--CAN'T TRUST ANYONE-- ANYMORE!
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN--
--THE CURSE-- THAT MAKES ME HURT THE ONES --I TRY TO LOVE!
THAT WOMAN--
--SOMEHOW, SHE'S GONNA KILL US BOTH!
AND MATTHEW, OLD SON--
--DEATH JUST AINT YOUR STYLE!
THINK, NATASHA--YOU DIDN'T LOVE THE SCORPION-- YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE--
--FOR IN THAT CASE, AT LEAST --THE CURSE IS NOT ALIVE!
BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
CAN I KEEP ON RUNNING--WITH WHAT SEEMS THE WORLD AGAINST ME?

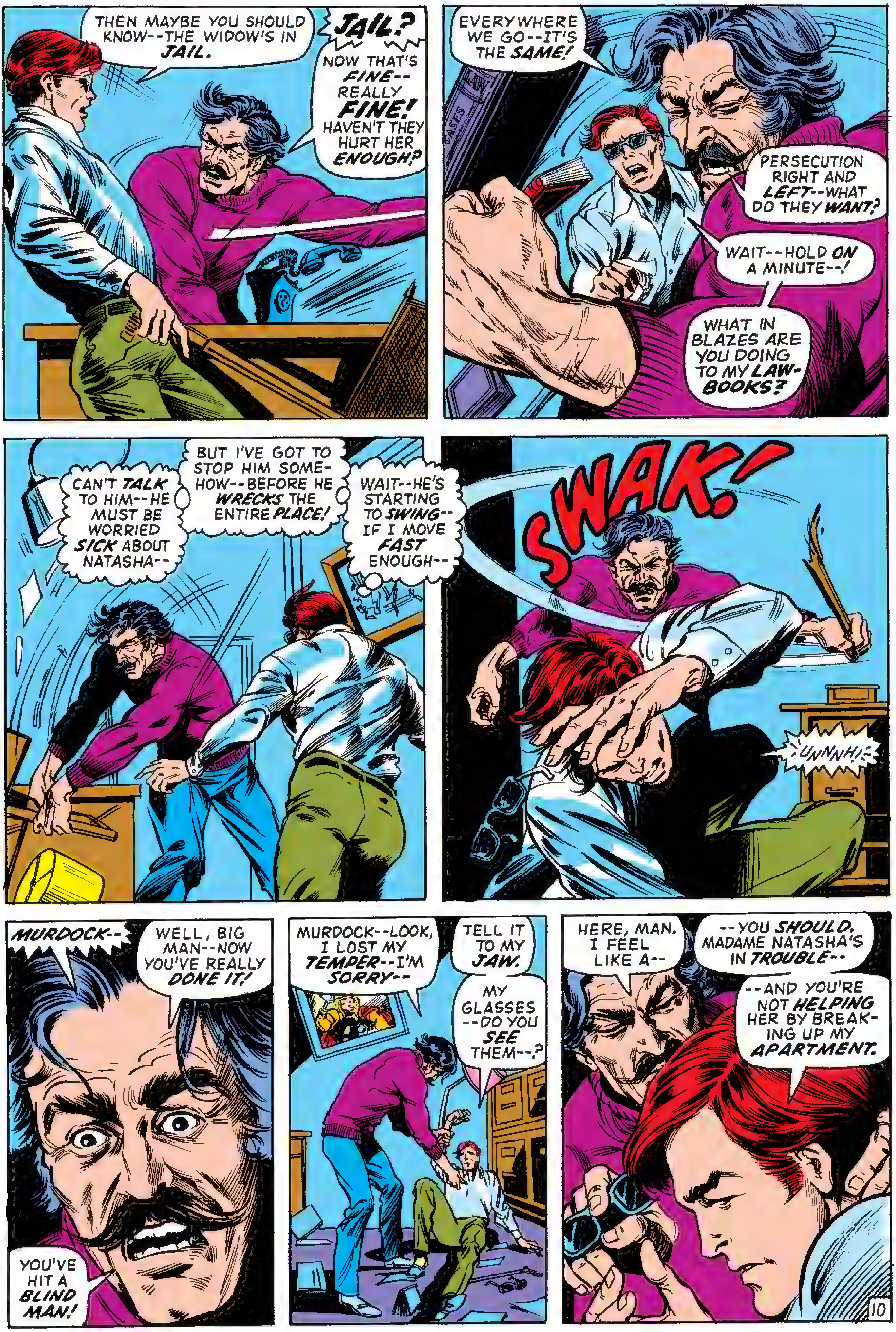

YES, RUN, NATASHA--
--RUN, TILL ALL BREATH LEAVES YOUR LUNGS--
--RUN, TILL YOU MUST STOP--AND THEN WHAT WILL YOU DO, RUSSIAN BEAUTY?
WHAT WILL YOU DO, WHEN YOU'VE LEFT ALL FRIENDS BEHIND?
DAREDEVIL, WAIT--!
PERHAPS WE CAN TALK--!
THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER ASKED, LADY.
PERHAPS--PERHAPS YOU CAN GO BACK TO THEM--
--AND TELL THEM YOU COULDN'T FIND ME. THEN--IF I ONLY HAD TIME TO THINK--
TOO MANY MAYBES, NATASHA.
TRY TO UNDERSTAND--YOU'VE GOT TO COME WITH ME--
--AND YOU'VE GOT TO COME NOW.
NOW! ALWAYS NOW! WHY NOT TOMORROW--OR NEXT WEEK?
WHY NOT NEVER?
ANY OTHER FANTASIES YOU'D CARE TO MENTION?
OH, IT'S USELESS TO TRY TO REASON WITH YOU--
LADY, THAT JUST WASN'T REASONING...!
THEN WE'RE ENEMIES!
I DIDN'T SAY THAT--
I DID!
IF THAT'S WHAT I AM--THEN THAT'S THE WAY I'LL HAVE TO ACT!
TWWWHT!
NO!

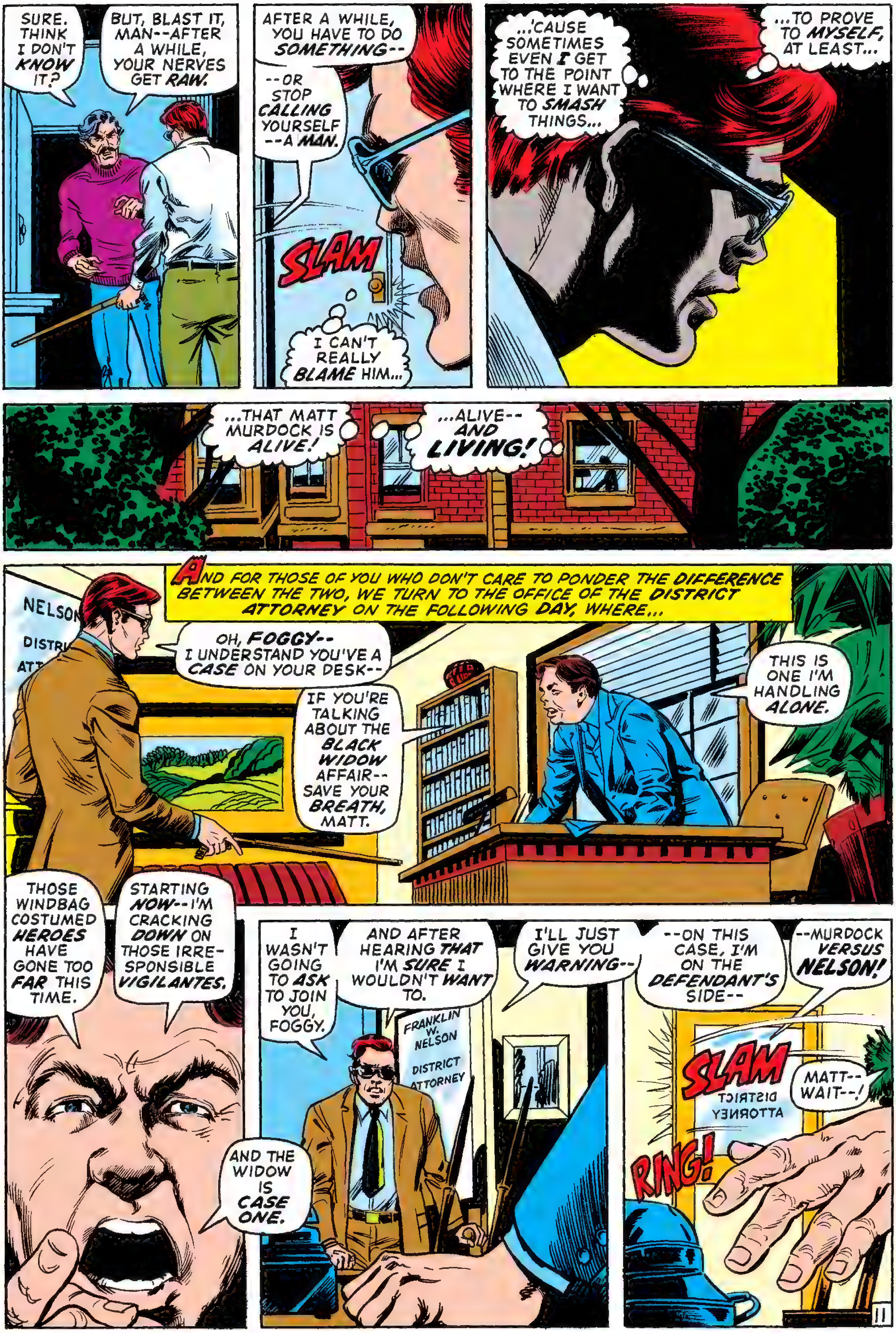

YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D LET YOU **KEEP** THOSE STINGS, DID YOU, 'TASHA?
I'M SORRY, MA'AM-- BUT IF **THIS** IS THE WAY IT'S **GOT** TO BE--
--**AMEN!**
I ALMOST WISH I COULD **CONTROL** MY CURSE--
--SO I MIGHT **STRIKE** YOU WITH IT--
--**STRIKE YOU DEAD!**
NOW YOU **KNOW** YOU DON'T REALLY **MEAN** THAT, NATASHA.
THOUGH-- HOW CAN I BE REALLY **SURE?**
THINGS WERE COMING TOGETHER FOR US SO **WELL**-- FOR A TIME, I ALMOST DARED **HOPE**--
BUT, NO--
--THOSE DREAMS ARE **FINISHED** NOW.
FINISHED... **BURIED.**
POLICE
P D
THANKS, DAREDEVIL.
WE'LL TAKE REAL GOOD **CARE** OF THE LITTLE LADY...
SEE THAT YOU **DO**, OFFICER.
SEE THAT YOU DO!
PCT. 20
N.Y.P.D.
*AND THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR SEARCHES FOR A **SIGN** FROM THE SILENT, GRIM **BLACK WIDOW**--*

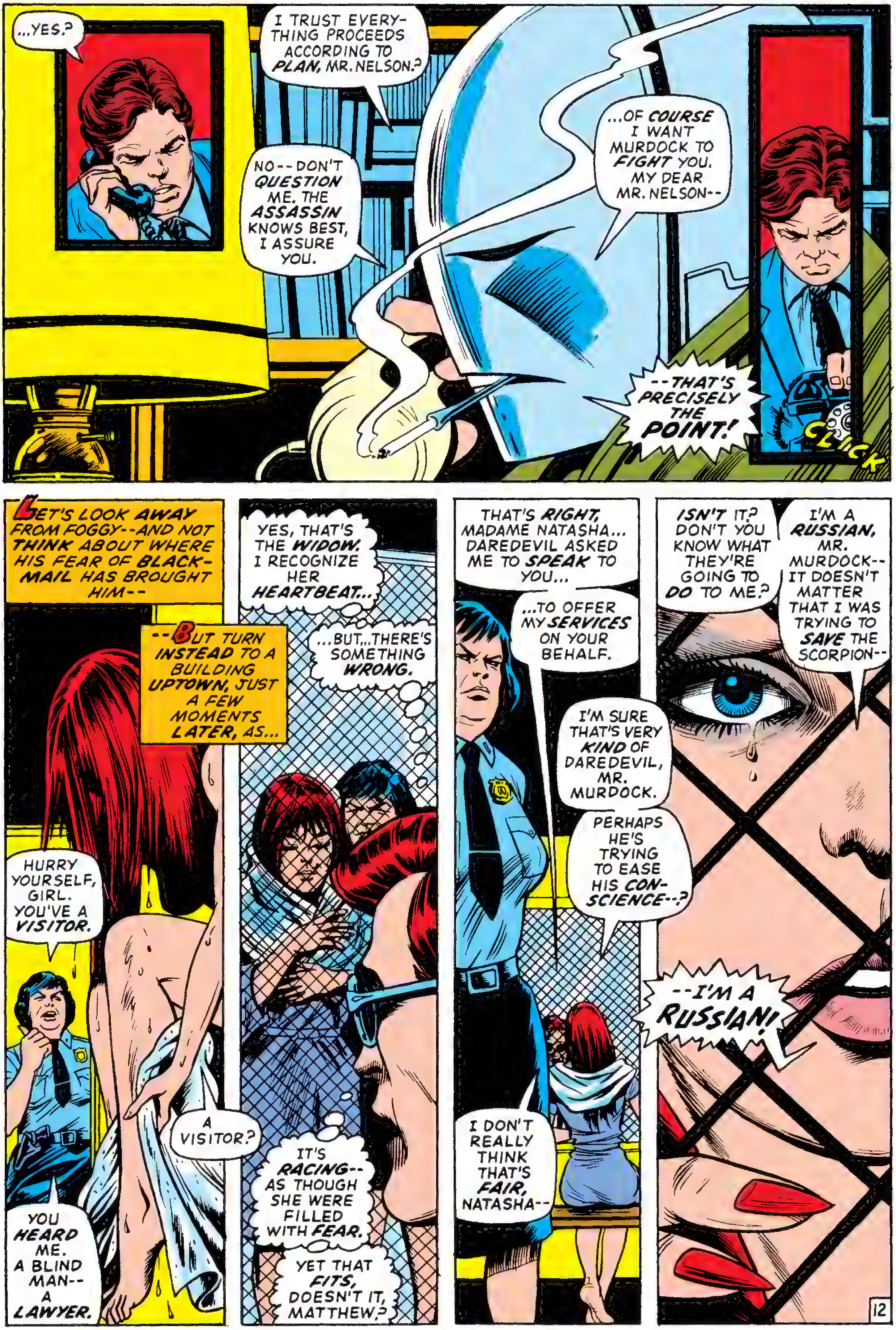

--AND RECEIVES NOTHING BUT AN AVERTED STARE IN RETURN.
I'LL SPEAK TO THE D. A.
IT'LL ALL BE ALL RIGHT, NATASHA...
...I PROMISE YOU...
20
...I PROMISE YOU.
THE CROWD--WATCHING ME. THEY THINK I'M A HERO.
SURE. HEROES STOP CRIMINALS, DON'T THEY?
TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT, MATT MURDOCK--
--TELL ME ALL ABOUT THE HONEST GOOD THEY DO!
SORRY, FOLKS--NO TIME FOR AUTOGRAPHS OR SOUVENIRS--
--IT'S TIME HORN-HEAD MADE FOR THE SKYWAYS--
--AND A RETURN--TO EVERYDAY LIVING!
BUT HIS THOUGHTS REMAIN BELOW, EVEN AS HIS FORM SWINGS HIGH INTO THE DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN DUSK...
YET NOW, OUR ATTENTIONS MUST FLEE ELSEWHERE, TO A SPEEDING AMBULANCE THAT CONTAINS--

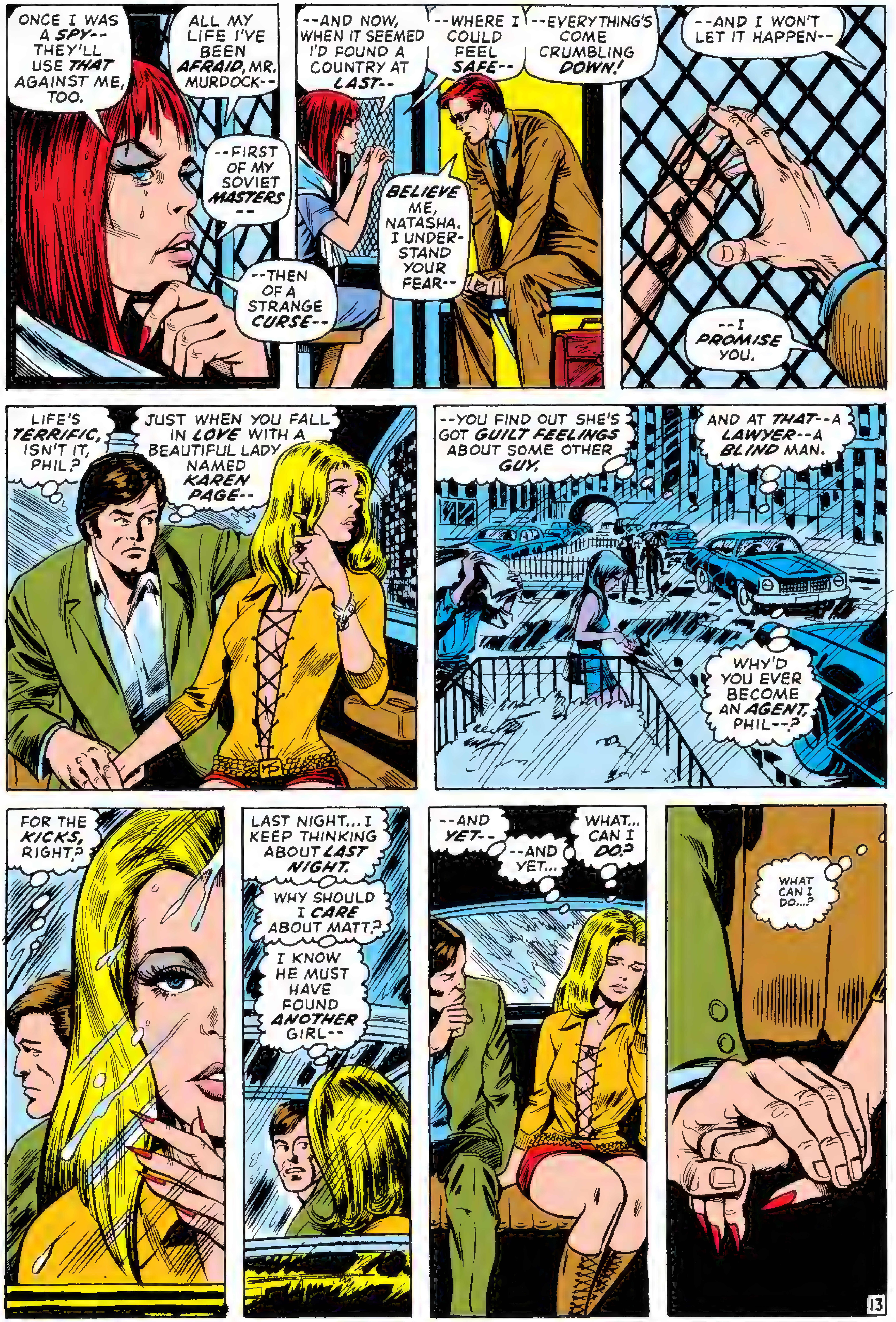

--THE *SCORPION.*
HIS *REAL* NAME, MAX. NOT THAT CARNIVAL *TAG.*
BRRRREEEEEEE
GOT *ME.* WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK WITH THE *PENITENTIARY.*
LEAVE THE RECORDS *BLANK* FOR NOW, OKAY?
JUST MAKES MY JOB *SIMPLER,* MAX.
THINK WE SHOULD *BOTHER* WITH AN EXAMINATION?
WHAT *FOR?*
HE SURE DIDN'T DIE FROM ADVANCED *TUBERCULOSIS--*
--HUH? HEY, SAM--
--WHAT'S THAT IN THE *BACK--*
--OVER *THERE,* BY THE *STRETCHERS--*
--WHAT?
IF YOU'VE A THING FOR *NAMES,* MY FRIEND--
--KNOW THAT THE ONE THEY *CALL* ME BY--
--*IS MR. HYDE!*
HOLY CRUD!
YAAAAHHHHHH
WHAT IN THE--
WHO'S MAKING ALL THAT--
KRASH
--RACKET.
THUNK!
LIKE I SAID BEFORE--
--*THE NAME IS HYDE!*

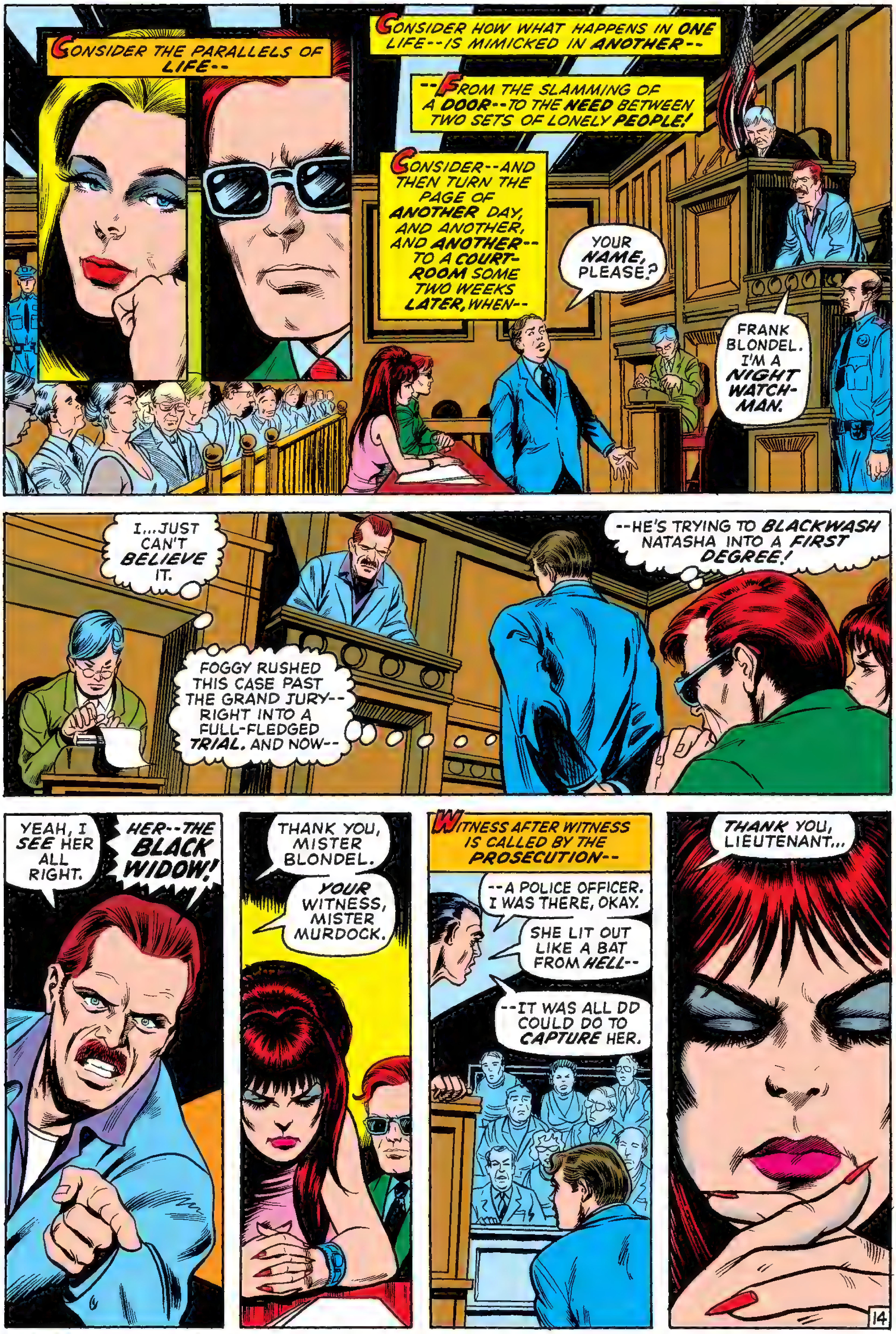

THEN, THE AIR IS SPLIT BY THE SNARL OF SCREECHING BRAKES--
SCREEEEEEEEEEEEE
--AND BURNT BY THE STENCH OF SEARING RUBBER!
BUT--TO OTHER THINGS--
--TO MATT MURDOCK'S SUTTON PLACE APARTMENT, AND THE SWEEPING SCARLET FORM--KNOWN TO US--AS DAREDEVIL!
--CAN'T FIGURE IT.
I SAW THE WIDOW SHOOT THAT STRAND TO SAVE THE SCORPION--
--BUT--IT'S AS THOUGH HE WANTED TO DIE--
--ESPECIALLY DIE--AT NATASHA'S HAND!
WAIT--THAT SOUND--!
THUMP!
--I ALMOST FORGOT--THAT'S GOT TO BE--
IVAN!
TIME TO SWITCH TO MURDOCK --AND PLAY BLIND MAN.
THE SCORPION MUST'VE BEEN THE ONE WHO LEFT IVAN HERE.
--WITH A NOTE CHALLENGING ME, AS DAREDEVIL, TO COME SAVE THE WIDOW'S LIFE.
I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW THE SCORPION KNEW MY SECRET IDENTITY--
--BUT NOW'S SURE NOT THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT IT--!
UH--MY HEAD. WHO SANDBAGGED ME, ANYWAY?
THAT'S SOMETHING I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU, FELLA...
RIGHT AFTER I ASKED --WHO YOU ARE!
ASKED--?
UH--SORRY, PAL--DIDN'T QUITE SEE THOSE SHADES.
WATCHING OLD LATE SHOWS DOESN'T DO MUCH FOR A GUY'S VISION --KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
THE NAME'S IVAN. I'M MADAME NATASHA'S CHAUFFEUR!

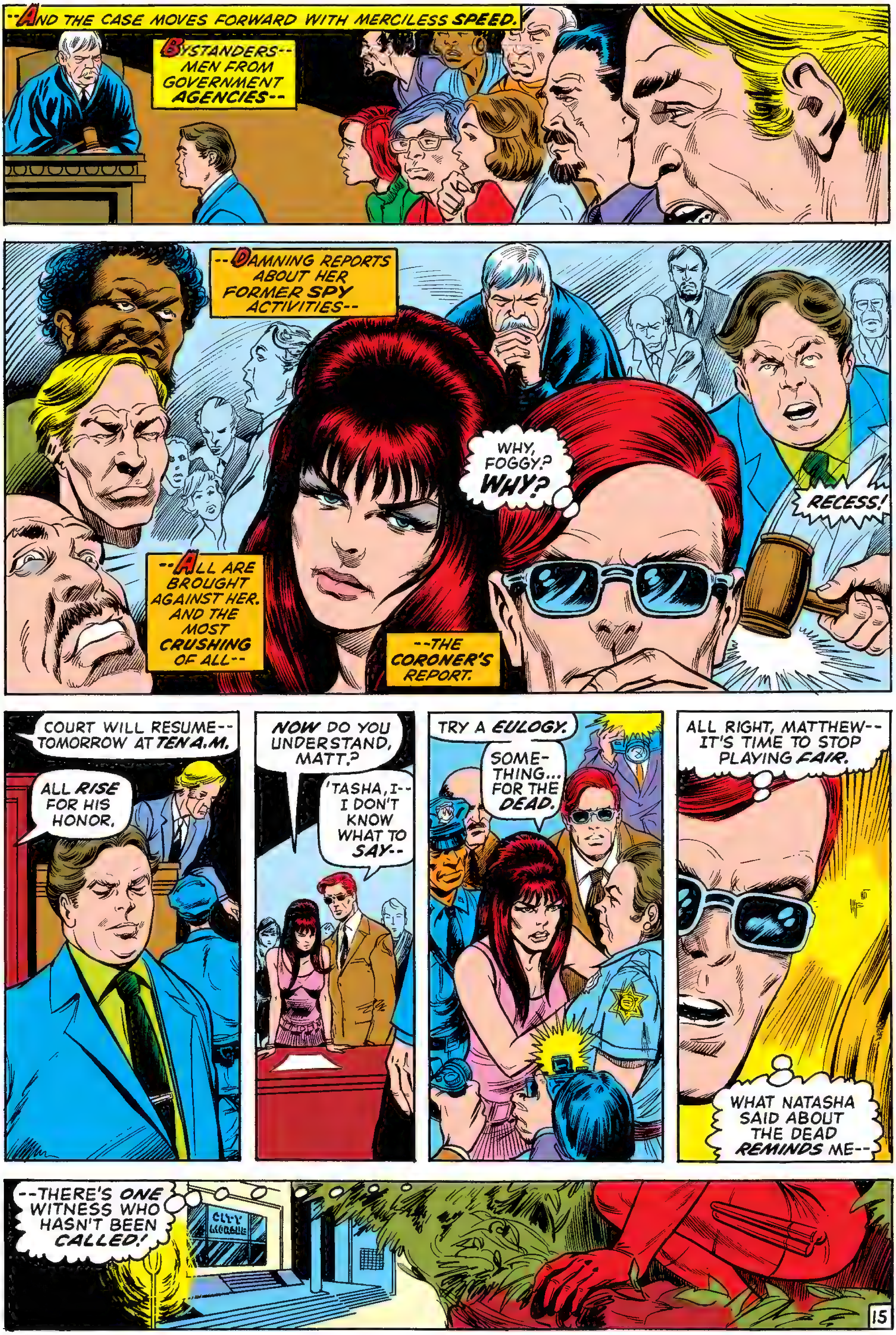

THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD KNOW--THE WIDOW'S IN *JAIL.*
JAIL?
NOW THAT'S *FINE*--REALLY *FINE!* HAVEN'T THEY HURT HER *ENOUGH?*
EVERYWHERE WE GO--IT'S THE *SAME!*
LAW
CASES
PERSECUTION RIGHT AND *LEFT*--WHAT DO THEY *WANT?*
WAIT--HOLD *ON* A MINUTE--!
WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING TO MY *LAW-BOOKS?*
CAN'T *TALK* TO HIM--HE MUST BE WORRIED *SICK* ABOUT NATASHA--
BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM SOMEHOW--BEFORE HE *WRECKS* THE ENTIRE *PLACE!*
WAIT--HE'S STARTING TO *SWING*--IF I MOVE *FAST* ENOUGH--
SWAK!
UNNNH!
MURDOCK--
WELL, BIG MAN--NOW YOU'VE REALLY *DONE IT!*
YOU'VE HIT A *BLIND MAN!*
MURDOCK--LOOK, I LOST MY *TEMPER*--I'M *SORRY*--
TELL IT TO MY *JAW.*
MY GLASSES--DO YOU *SEE* THEM--?
HERE, MAN. I FEEL LIKE A--
--YOU *SHOULD.* MADAME NATASHA'S IN *TROUBLE*--
--AND YOU'RE NOT *HELPING* HER BY BREAKING UP MY *APARTMENT.*

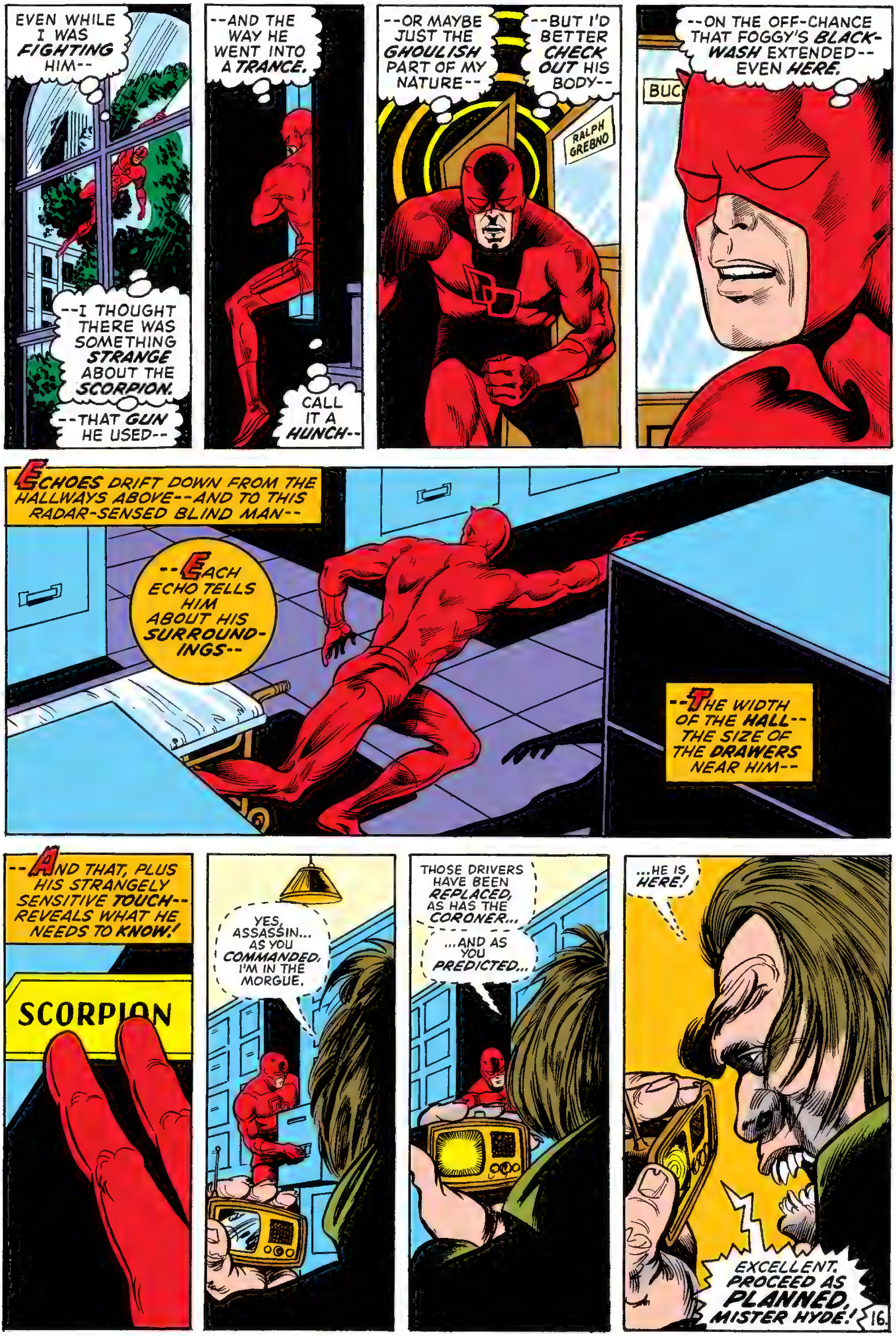

SURE. THINK I DON'T KNOW IT?
BUT, BLAST IT, MAN--AFTER A WHILE, YOUR NERVES GET RAW.
AFTER A WHILE, YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING--
--OR STOP CALLING YOURSELF --A MAN.
SLAM
I CAN'T REALLY BLAME HIM...
...'CAUSE SOMETIMES EVEN I GET TO THE POINT WHERE I WANT TO SMASH THINGS...
...TO PROVE TO MYSELF, AT LEAST...
...THAT MATT MURDOCK IS ALIVE!
...ALIVE-- AND LIVING!
AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T CARE TO PONDER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO, WE TURN TO THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, WHERE...
NELSON DISTRI ATT
OH, FOGGY-- I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE A CASE ON YOUR DESK--
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE BLACK WIDOW AFFAIR-- SAVE YOUR BREATH, MATT.
THIS IS ONE I'M HANDLING ALONE.
THOSE WINDBAG COSTUMED HEROES HAVE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME.
STARTING NOW--I'M CRACKING DOWN ON THOSE IRRESPONSIBLE VIGILANTES.
AND THE WIDOW IS CASE ONE.
I WASN'T GOING TO ASK TO JOIN YOU, FOGGY.
AND AFTER HEARING THAT I'M SURE I WOULDN'T WANT TO.
FRANKLIN W. NELSON DISTRICT ATTORNEY
I'LL JUST GIVE YOU WARNING--
--ON THIS CASE, I'M ON THE DEFENDANT'S SIDE--
--MURDOCK VERSUS NELSON!
SLAM
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MATT-- WAIT--!
RING!

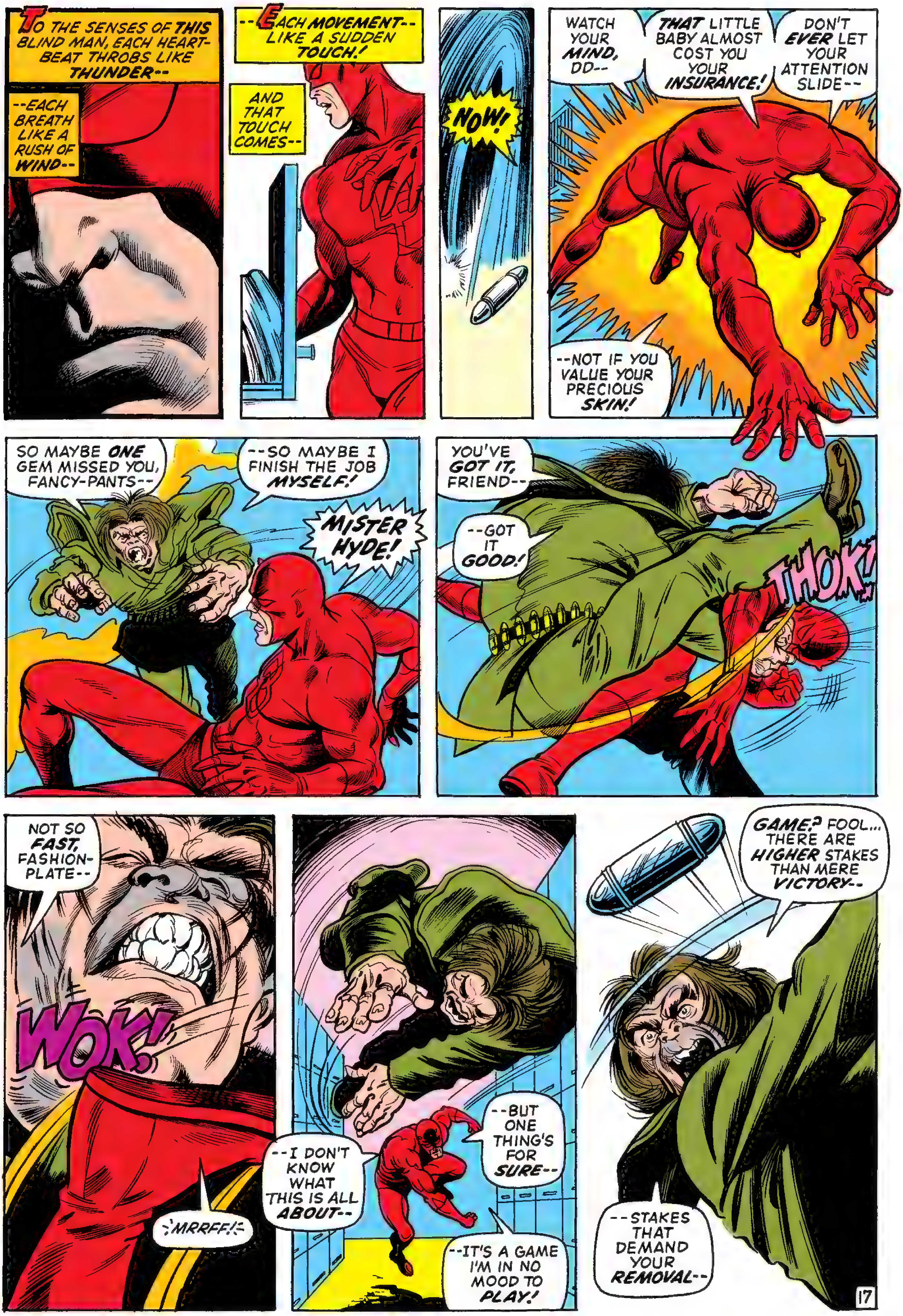

...YES?
I TRUST EVERYTHING PROCEEDS ACCORDING TO *PLAN*, MR. NELSON?
NO--DON'T *QUESTION* ME. THE *ASSASSIN* KNOWS BEST, I ASSURE YOU.
...OF *COURSE* I WANT MURDOCK TO *FIGHT* YOU, MY DEAR MR. NELSON--
--THAT'S PRECISELY THE POINT!
CLICK
LET'S LOOK *AWAY* FROM FOGGY--AND NOT *THINK* ABOUT WHERE HIS FEAR OF *BLACKMAIL* HAS BROUGHT HIM--
--BUT TURN *INSTEAD* TO A BUILDING *UPTOWN*, JUST A FEW MOMENTS *LATER*, AS...
HURRY YOURSELF, GIRL. YOU'VE A *VISITOR*.
A VISITOR?
YOU *HEARD* ME. A BLIND MAN--A *LAWYER*.
YES, THAT'S THE *WIDOW*. I RECOGNIZE HER *HEARTBEAT*...
...BUT...THERE'S SOMETHING *WRONG*.
IT'S *RACING*--AS THOUGH SHE WERE FILLED WITH *FEAR*.
YET THAT *FITS*, DOESN'T IT, MATTHEW?
THAT'S *RIGHT*, MADAME NATASHA... DAREDEVIL ASKED ME TO *SPEAK* TO YOU...
...TO OFFER MY *SERVICES* ON YOUR BEHALF.
I'M SURE THAT'S VERY *KIND* OF DAREDEVIL, MR. MURDOCK.
PERHAPS HE'S TRYING TO EASE HIS *CONSCIENCE*--?
I DON'T REALLY THINK THAT'S *FAIR*, NATASHA--
ISN'T IT? DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO *DO* TO ME?
I'M A *RUSSIAN*, MR. MURDOCK--IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT I WAS TRYING TO *SAVE* THE SCORPION--
--I'M A RUSSIAN!
12

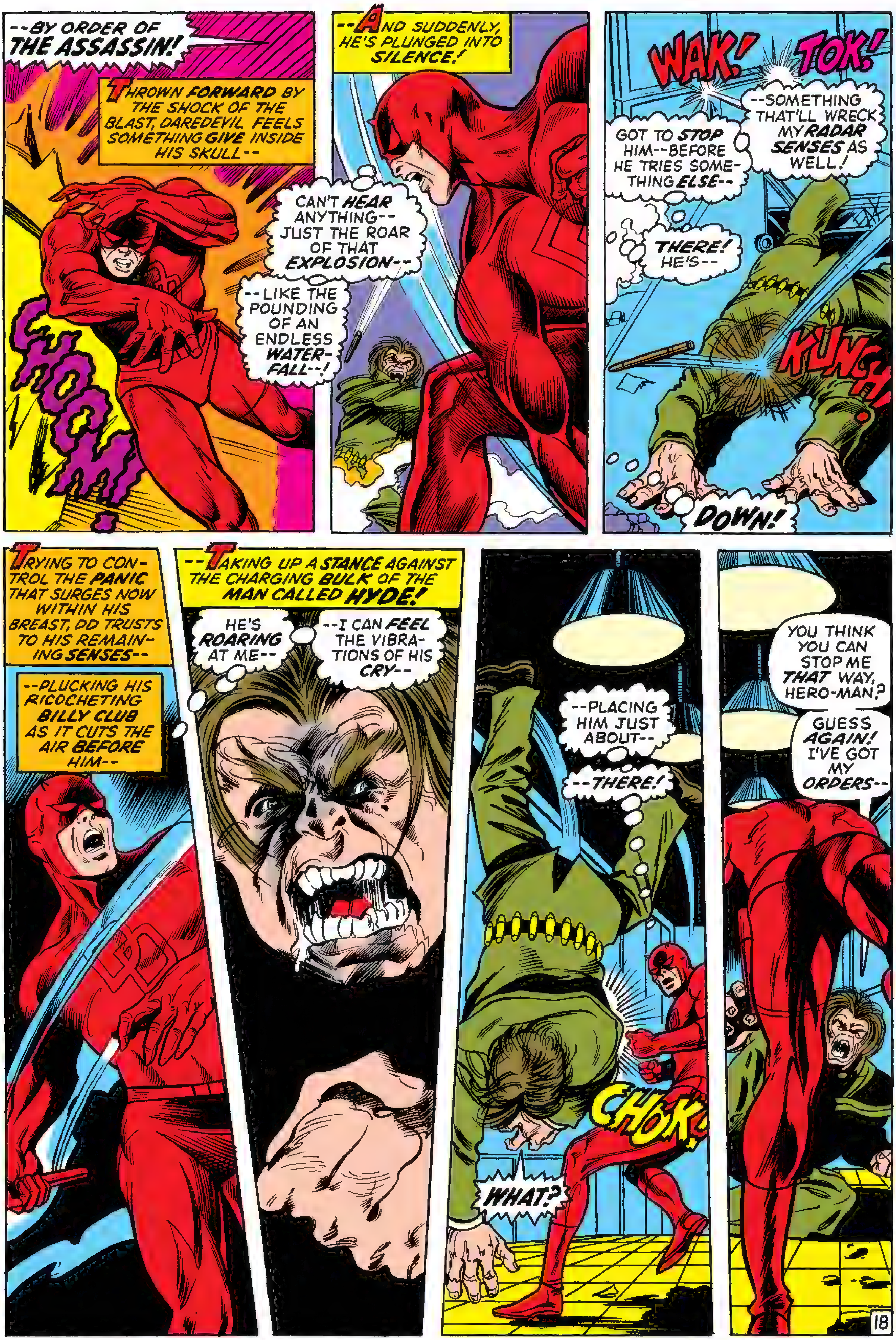

ONCE I WAS A *SPY*-- THEY'LL USE *THAT* AGAINST ME, TOO.
ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN *AFRAID*, MR. MURDOCK--
--FIRST OF MY SOVIET *MASTERS*--
--THEN OF A STRANGE *CURSE*--
--AND NOW, WHEN IT SEEMED I'D FOUND A COUNTRY AT *LAST*--
--WHERE I COULD FEEL *SAFE*--
--EVERYTHING'S COME CRUMBLING *DOWN!*
BELIEVE ME, NATASHA. I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEAR--
--AND I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN--
--I *PROMISE* YOU.
LIFE'S *TERRIFIC*, ISN'T IT, PHIL?
JUST WHEN YOU FALL IN *LOVE* WITH A BEAUTIFUL LADY NAMED *KAREN PAGE*--
--YOU FIND OUT SHE'S GOT *GUILT FEELINGS* ABOUT SOME OTHER *GUY*.
AND AT *THAT*--A *LAWYER*--A *BLIND* MAN.
WHY'D YOU EVER BECOME AN *AGENT*, PHIL--?
FOR THE *KICKS*, RIGHT?
LAST NIGHT... I KEEP THINKING ABOUT *LAST NIGHT*.
WHY SHOULD I *CARE* ABOUT MATT?
I KNOW HE MUST HAVE FOUND *ANOTHER* GIRL--
--AND *YET*--
--AND YET...
WHAT... CAN I *DO*?
WHAT CAN I DO...?

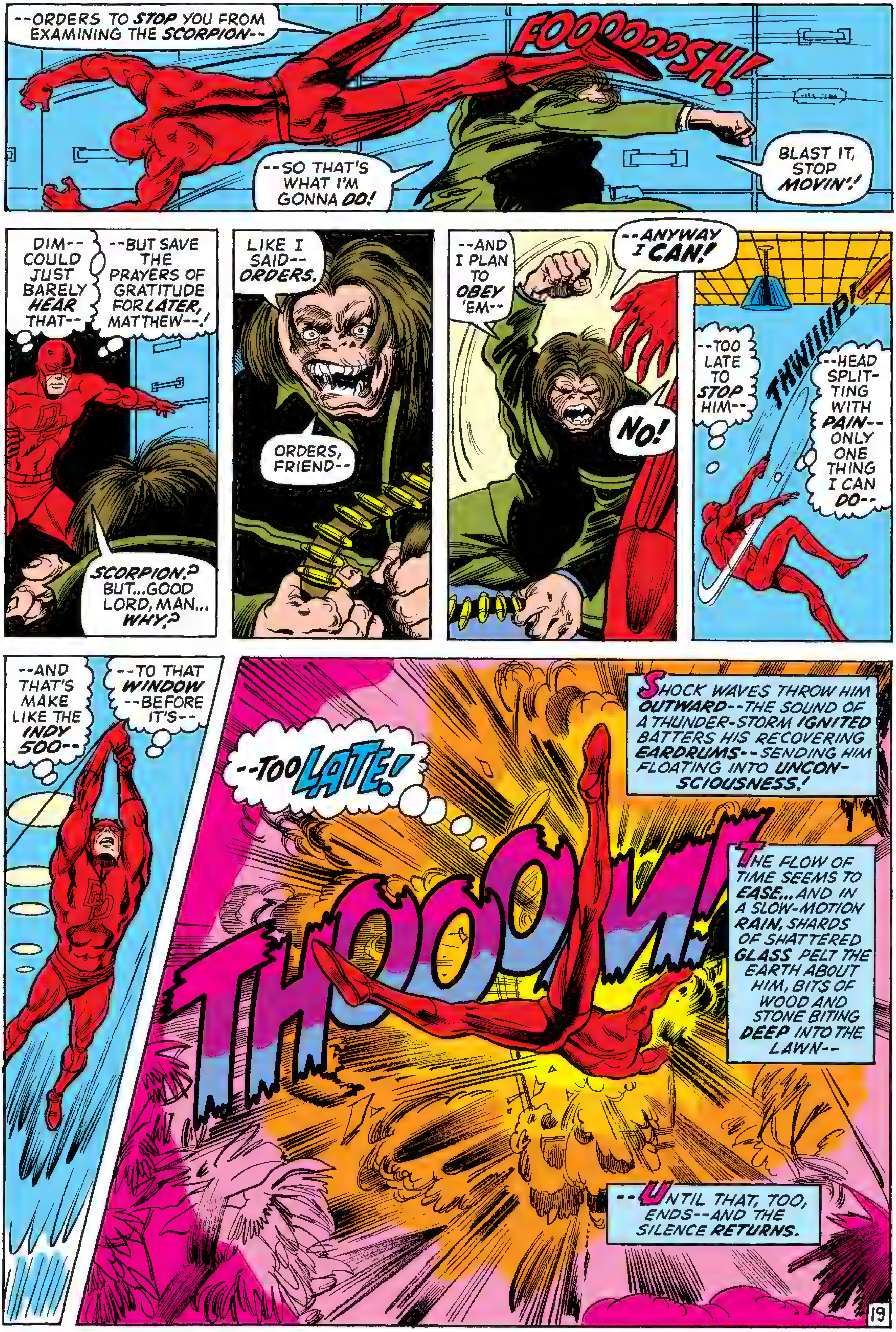

CONSIDER THE PARALLELS OF LIFE--
CONSIDER HOW WHAT HAPPENS IN ONE LIFE--IS MIMICKED IN ANOTHER--
--FROM THE SLAMMING OF A DOOR--TO THE NEED BETWEEN TWO SETS OF LONELY PEOPLE!
CONSIDER--AND THEN TURN THE PAGE OF ANOTHER DAY, AND ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER--TO A COURTROOM SOME TWO WEEKS LATER, WHEN--
YOUR NAME, PLEASE?
FRANK BLONDEL. I'M A NIGHT WATCHMAN.
I...JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
FOGGY RUSHED THIS CASE PAST THE GRAND JURY--RIGHT INTO A FULL-FLEDGED TRIAL. AND NOW--
--HE'S TRYING TO BLACKWASH NATASHA INTO A FIRST DEGREE!
YEAH, I SEE HER ALL RIGHT.
HER--THE BLACK WIDOW!
THANK YOU, MISTER BLONDEL.
YOUR WITNESS, MISTER MURDOCK.
WITNESS AFTER WITNESS IS CALLED BY THE PROSECUTION--
--A POLICE OFFICER. I WAS THERE, OKAY.
SHE LIT OUT LIKE A BAT FROM HELL--
--IT WAS ALL DD COULD DO TO CAPTURE HER.
THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT...

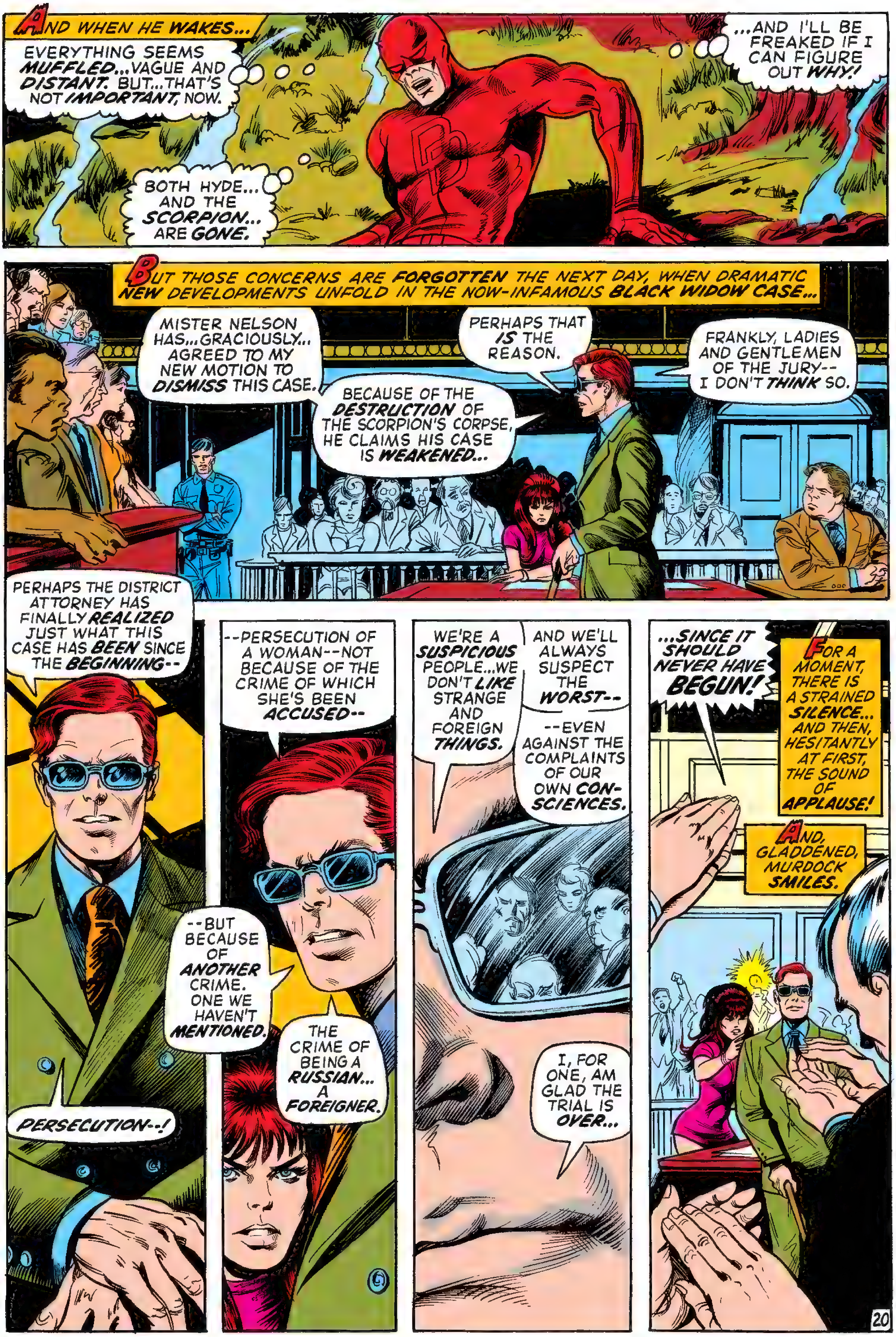

--AND THE CASE MOVES FORWARD WITH MERCILESS SPEED.
BYSTANDERS-- MEN FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES--
--DAMNING REPORTS ABOUT HER FORMER SPY ACTIVITIES--
WHY, FOGGY? WHY?
RECESS!
--ALL ARE BROUGHT AGAINST HER. AND THE MOST CRUSHING OF ALL--
--THE CORONER'S REPORT.
COURT WILL RESUME--TOMORROW AT TEN A.M.
ALL RISE FOR HIS HONOR.
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MATT?
'TASHA, I-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY--
TRY A EULOGY.
SOMETHING... FOR THE DEAD.
ALL RIGHT, MATTHEW--IT'S TIME TO STOP PLAYING FAIR.
WHAT NATASHA SAID ABOUT THE DEAD REMINDS ME--
--THERE'S ONE WITNESS WHO HASN'T BEEN CALLED!
CITY MORGUE

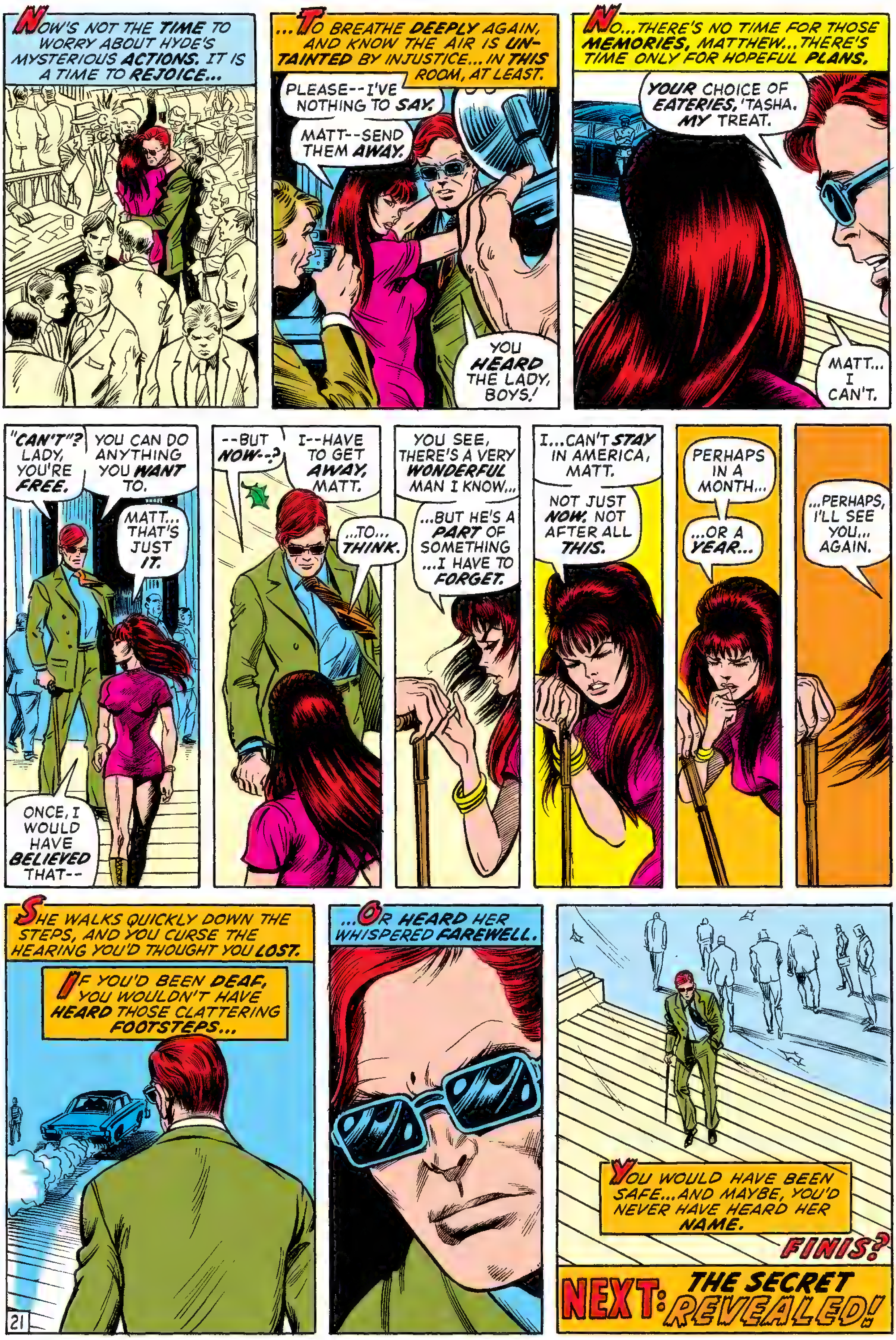

EVEN WHILE I WAS FIGHTING HIM--
--I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE SCORPION.
--THAT GUN HE USED--
--AND THE WAY HE WENT INTO A TRANCE.
CALL IT A HUNCH--
--OR MAYBE JUST THE GHOULISH PART OF MY NATURE--
--BUT I'D BETTER CHECK OUT HIS BODY--
RALPH GREBNO
BUC
--ON THE OFF-CHANCE THAT FOGGY'S BLACK-WASH EXTENDED-- EVEN HERE.
ECHOES DRIFT DOWN FROM THE HALLWAYS ABOVE--AND TO THIS RADAR-SENSED BLIND MAN--
--EACH ECHO TELLS HIM ABOUT HIS SURROUNDINGS--
--THE WIDTH OF THE HALL-- THE SIZE OF THE DRAWERS NEAR HIM--
--AND THAT, PLUS HIS STRANGELY SENSITIVE TOUCH-- REVEALS WHAT HE NEEDS TO KNOW!
SCORPION
YES, ASSASSIN... AS YOU COMMANDED, I'M IN THE MORGUE.
THOSE DRIVERS HAVE BEEN REPLACED, AS HAS THE CORONER...
...AND AS YOU PREDICTED...
...HE IS HERE!
EXCELLENT. PROCEED AS PLANNED, MISTER HYDE!
16.


TO THE SENSES OF THIS BLIND MAN, EACH HEART-BEAT THROBS LIKE THUNDER--
--EACH BREATH LIKE A RUSH OF WIND--
--EACH MOVEMENT-- LIKE A SUDDEN TOUCH!
AND THAT TOUCH COMES--
NOW!
WATCH YOUR MIND, DD--
THAT LITTLE BABY ALMOST COST YOU YOUR INSURANCE!
DON'T EVER LET YOUR ATTENTION SLIDE--
--NOT IF YOU VALUE YOUR PRECIOUS SKIN!
SO MAYBE ONE GEM MISSED YOU, FANCY-PANTS--
--SO MAYBE I FINISH THE JOB MYSELF!
MISTER HYDE!
YOU'VE GOT IT, FRIEND--
--GOT IT GOOD!
THOK!
NOT SO FAST, FASHION-PLATE--
WOK!
MRRFF!
--I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--
--BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE--
--IT'S A GAME I'M IN NO MOOD TO PLAY!
GAME? FOOL... THERE ARE HIGHER STAKES THAN MERE VICTORY--
--STAKES THAT DEMAND YOUR REMOVAL--


--BY ORDER OF THE ASSASSIN!
THROWN FORWARD BY THE SHOCK OF THE BLAST, DAREDEVIL FEELS SOMETHING GIVE INSIDE HIS SKULL--
CHOOM!
--AND SUDDENLY, HE'S PLUNGED INTO SILENCE!
CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING-- JUST THE ROAR OF THAT EXPLOSION--
--LIKE THE POUNDING OF AN ENDLESS WATER-FALL--!
WAK!
TOK!
GOT TO STOP HIM--BEFORE HE TRIES SOMETHING ELSE--
--SOMETHING THAT'LL WRECK MY RADAR SENSES AS WELL!
THERE! HE'S--
KUNCH!
DOWN!
TRYING TO CONTROL THE PANIC THAT SURGES NOW WITHIN HIS BREAST, DD TRUSTS TO HIS REMAINING SENSES--
--PLUCKING HIS RICOCHETING BILLY CLUB AS IT CUTS THE AIR BEFORE HIM--
--TAKING UP A STANCE AGAINST THE CHARGING BULK OF THE MAN CALLED HYDE!
HE'S ROARING AT ME--
--I CAN FEEL THE VIBRATIONS OF HIS CRY--
--PLACING HIM JUST ABOUT--
--THERE!
CHOK!
WHAT?
YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME THAT WAY, HERO-MAN?
GUESS AGAIN! I'VE GOT MY ORDERS--

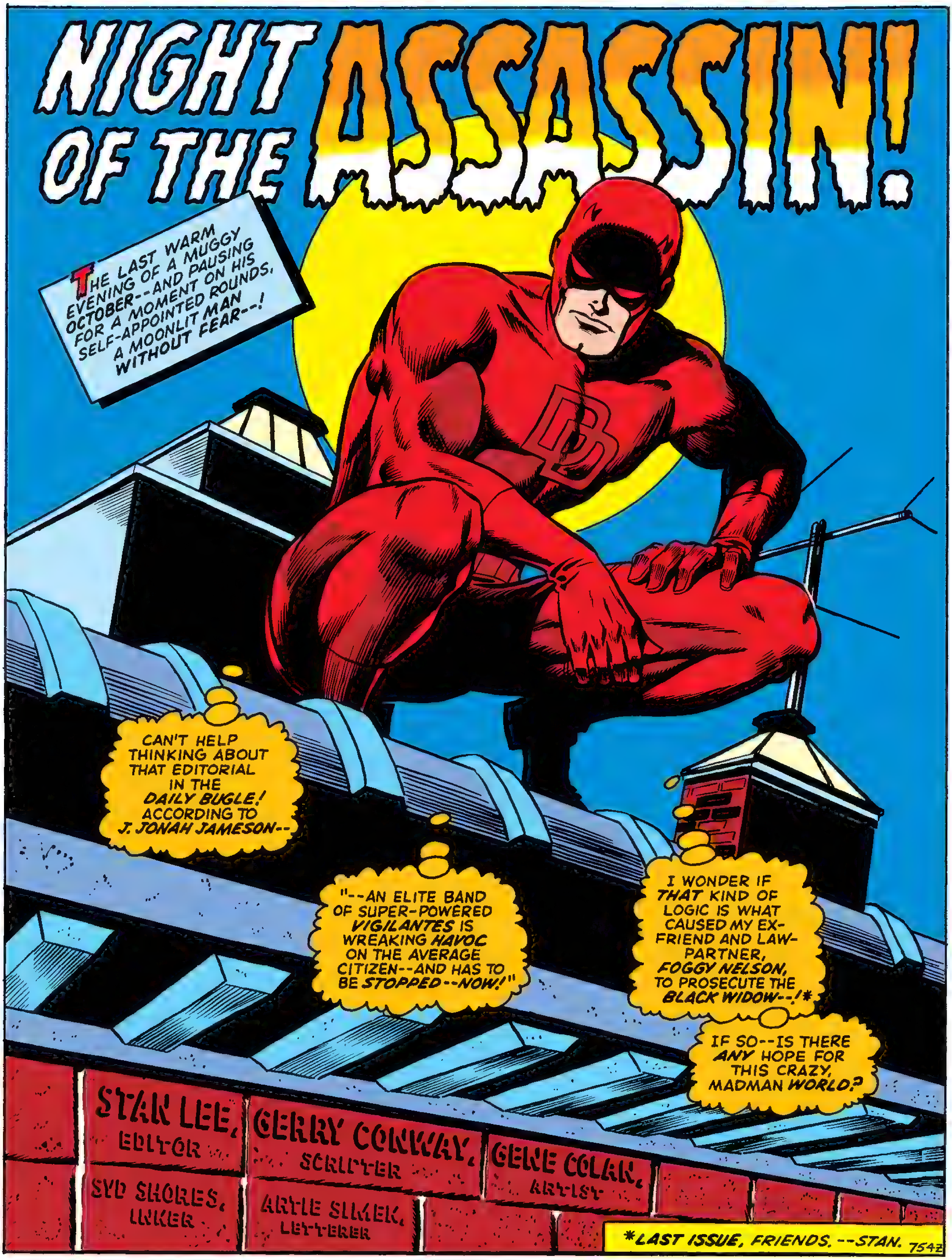

--ORDERS TO STOP YOU FROM EXAMINING THE SCORPION--
FOOOOOOOSH!
--SO THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO!
BLAST IT, STOP MOVIN'!
DIM--COULD JUST BARELY HEAR THAT--
--BUT SAVE THE PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE FOR LATER, MATTHEW--!
SCORPION? BUT...GOOD LORD, MAN...WHY?
LIKE I SAID--ORDERS.
ORDERS, FRIEND--
--AND I PLAN TO OBEY 'EM--
--ANYWAY I CAN!
NO!
--TOO LATE TO STOP HIM--
THWIIIIP!
--HEAD SPLITTING WITH PAIN--ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO--
--AND THAT'S MAKE LIKE THE INDY 500--
--TO THAT WINDOW--BEFORE IT'S--
--TOO LATE!
SHOCK WAVES THROW HIM OUTWARD--THE SOUND OF A THUNDER-STORM IGNITED BATTERS HIS RECOVERING EARDRUMS--SENDING HIM FLOATING INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.!
THOOOM!
THE FLOW OF TIME SEEMS TO EASE...AND IN A SLOW-MOTION RAIN, SHARDS OF SHATTERED GLASS PELT THE EARTH ABOUT HIM, BITS OF WOOD AND STONE BITING DEEP INTO THE LAWN--
--UNTIL THAT, TOO, ENDS--AND THE SILENCE RETURNS.

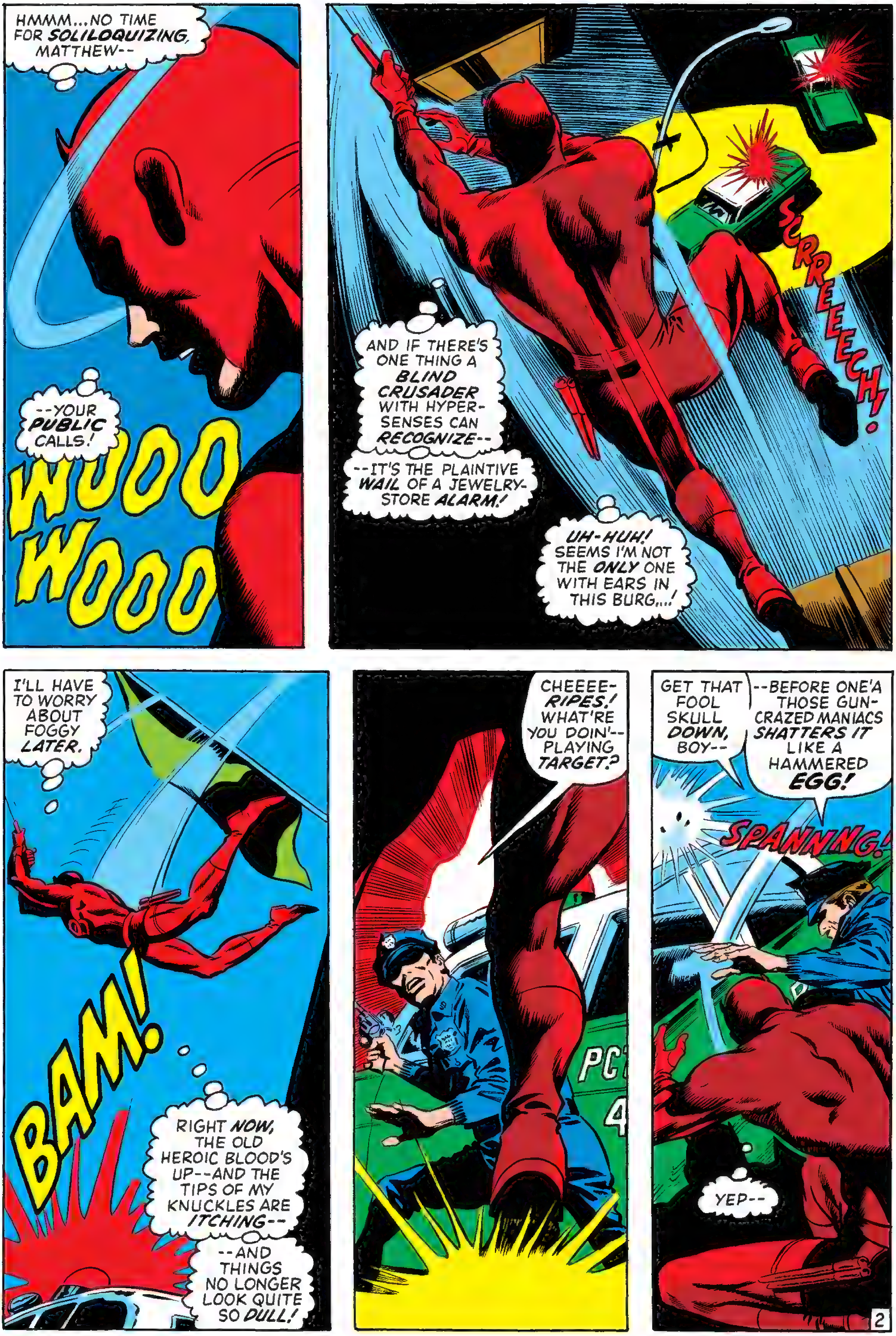

AND WHEN HE WAKES...
EVERYTHING SEEMS MUFFLED...VAGUE AND DISTANT. BUT...THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT, NOW.
BOTH HYDE... AND THE SCORPION... ARE GONE.
...AND I'LL BE FREAKED IF I CAN FIGURE OUT WHY!
BUT THOSE CONCERNS ARE FORGOTTEN THE NEXT DAY, WHEN DRAMATIC NEW DEVELOPMENTS UNFOLD IN THE NOW-INFAMOUS BLACK WIDOW CASE...
MISTER NELSON HAS...GRACIOUSLY... AGREED TO MY NEW MOTION TO DISMISS THIS CASE.
BECAUSE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SCORPION'S CORPSE, HE CLAIMS HIS CASE IS WEAKENED...
PERHAPS THAT IS THE REASON.
FRANKLY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY-- I DON'T THINK SO.
PERHAPS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAS FINALLY REALIZED JUST WHAT THIS CASE HAS BEEN SINCE THE BEGINNING--
PERSECUTION--!
--PERSECUTION OF A WOMAN--NOT BECAUSE OF THE CRIME OF WHICH SHE'S BEEN ACCUSED--
--BUT BECAUSE OF ANOTHER CRIME. ONE WE HAVEN'T MENTIONED.
THE CRIME OF BEING A RUSSIAN... A FOREIGNER.
WE'RE A SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE...WE DON'T LIKE STRANGE AND FOREIGN THINGS.
AND WE'LL ALWAYS SUSPECT THE WORST--
--EVEN AGAINST THE COMPLAINTS OF OUR OWN CONSCIENCES.
I, FOR ONE, AM GLAD THE TRIAL IS OVER...
...SINCE IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEGUN!
FOR A MOMENT, THERE IS A STRAINED SILENCE... AND THEN, HESITANTLY AT FIRST, THE SOUND OF APPLAUSE!
AND, GLADDENED, MURDOCK SMILES.

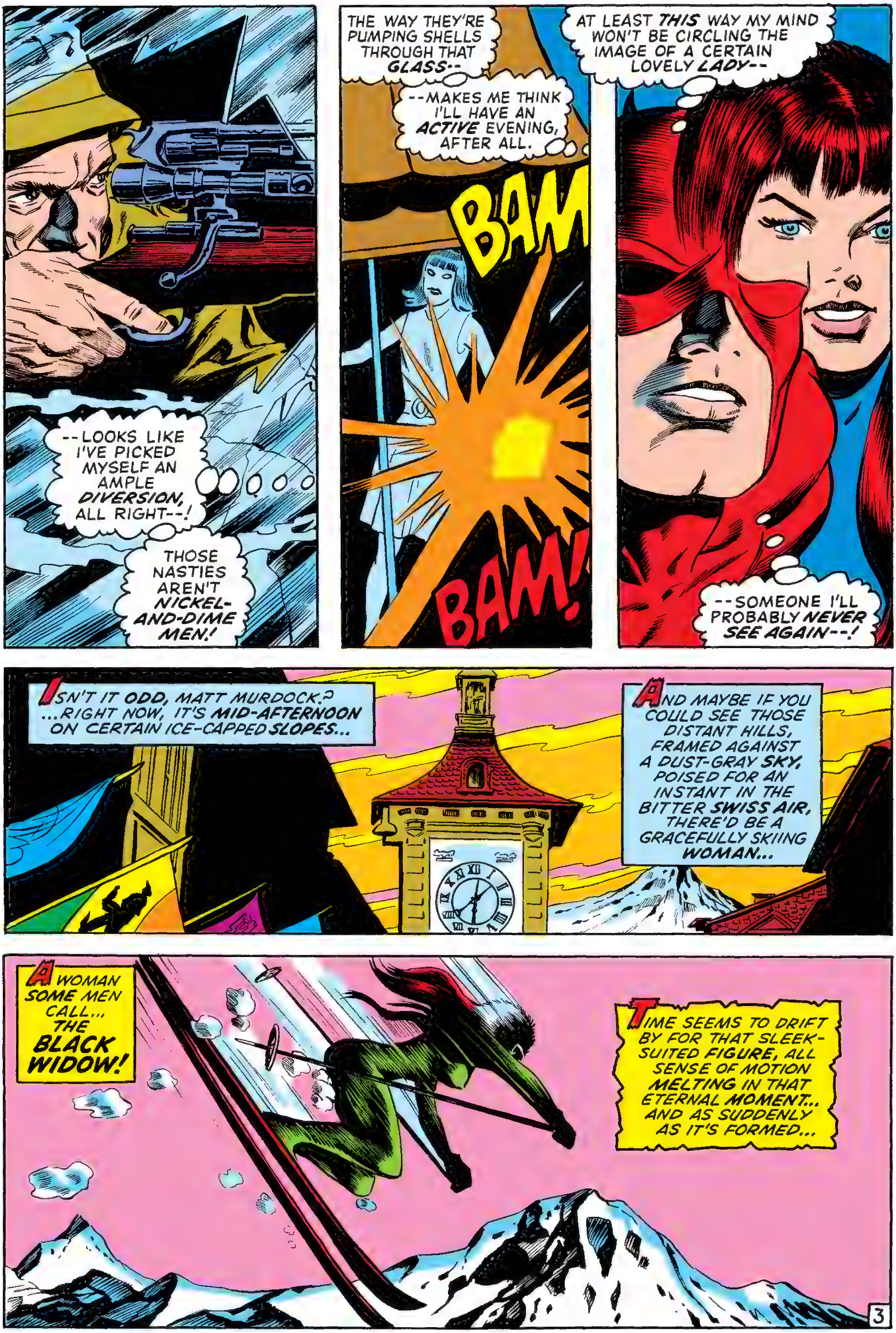

NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT HYDE'S MYSTERIOUS ACTIONS. IT IS A TIME TO REJOICE...
...TO BREATHE DEEPLY AGAIN, AND KNOW THE AIR IS UNTAINTED BY INJUSTICE... IN THIS ROOM, AT LEAST.
PLEASE--I'VE NOTHING TO SAY.
MATT--SEND THEM AWAY.
YOU HEARD THE LADY, BOYS!
NO...THERE'S NO TIME FOR THOSE MEMORIES, MATTHEW...THERE'S TIME ONLY FOR HOPEFUL PLANS.
YOUR CHOICE OF EATERIES, 'TASHA. MY TREAT.
MATT... I CAN'T.
"CAN'T"? LADY, YOU'RE FREE.
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT TO.
MATT... THAT'S JUST IT.
ONCE, I WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THAT--
--BUT NOW--?
I--HAVE TO GET AWAY, MATT.
...TO... THINK.
YOU SEE, THERE'S A VERY WONDERFUL MAN I KNOW...
...BUT HE'S A PART OF SOMETHING ...I HAVE TO FORGET.
I...CAN'T STAY IN AMERICA, MATT.
NOT JUST NOW. NOT AFTER ALL THIS.
PERHAPS IN A MONTH...
...OR A YEAR...
...PERHAPS, I'LL SEE YOU... AGAIN.
SHE WALKS QUICKLY DOWN THE STEPS, AND YOU CURSE THE HEARING YOU'D THOUGHT YOU LOST.
IF YOU'D BEEN DEAF, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HEARD THOSE CLATTERING FOOTSTEPS...
...OR HEARD HER WHISPERED FAREWELL.
YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN SAFE...AND MAYBE, YOU'D NEVER HAVE HEARD HER NAME.
FINIS?
NEXT: THE SECRET REVEALED!

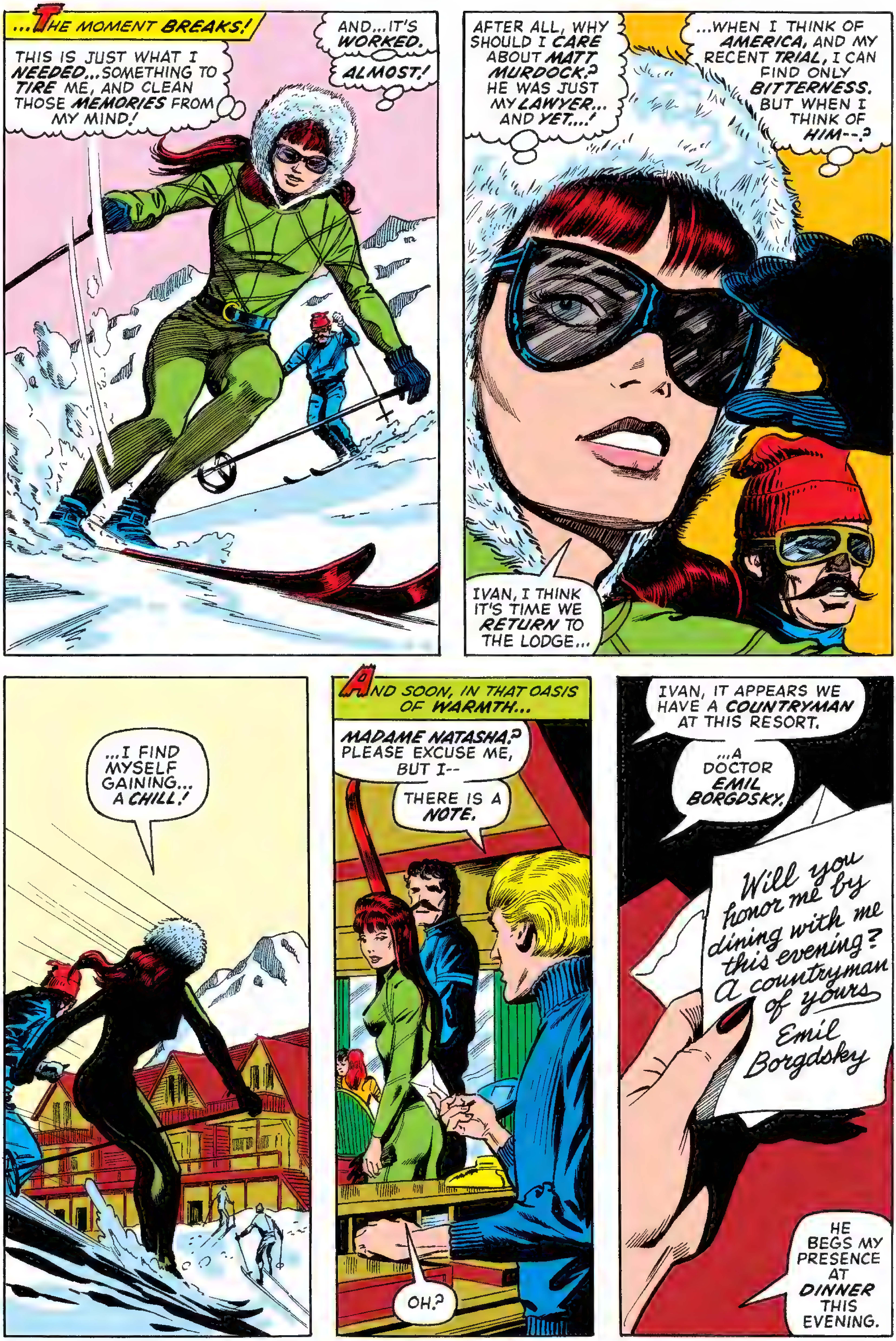
DAREDEVIL
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
20¢
84
FEB
02459
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN OUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YOU NEVER HAD A CHANCE, DAREDEVIL!
THIS DAY... YOU DIE!!
AT LAST--THE ASSASSIN!

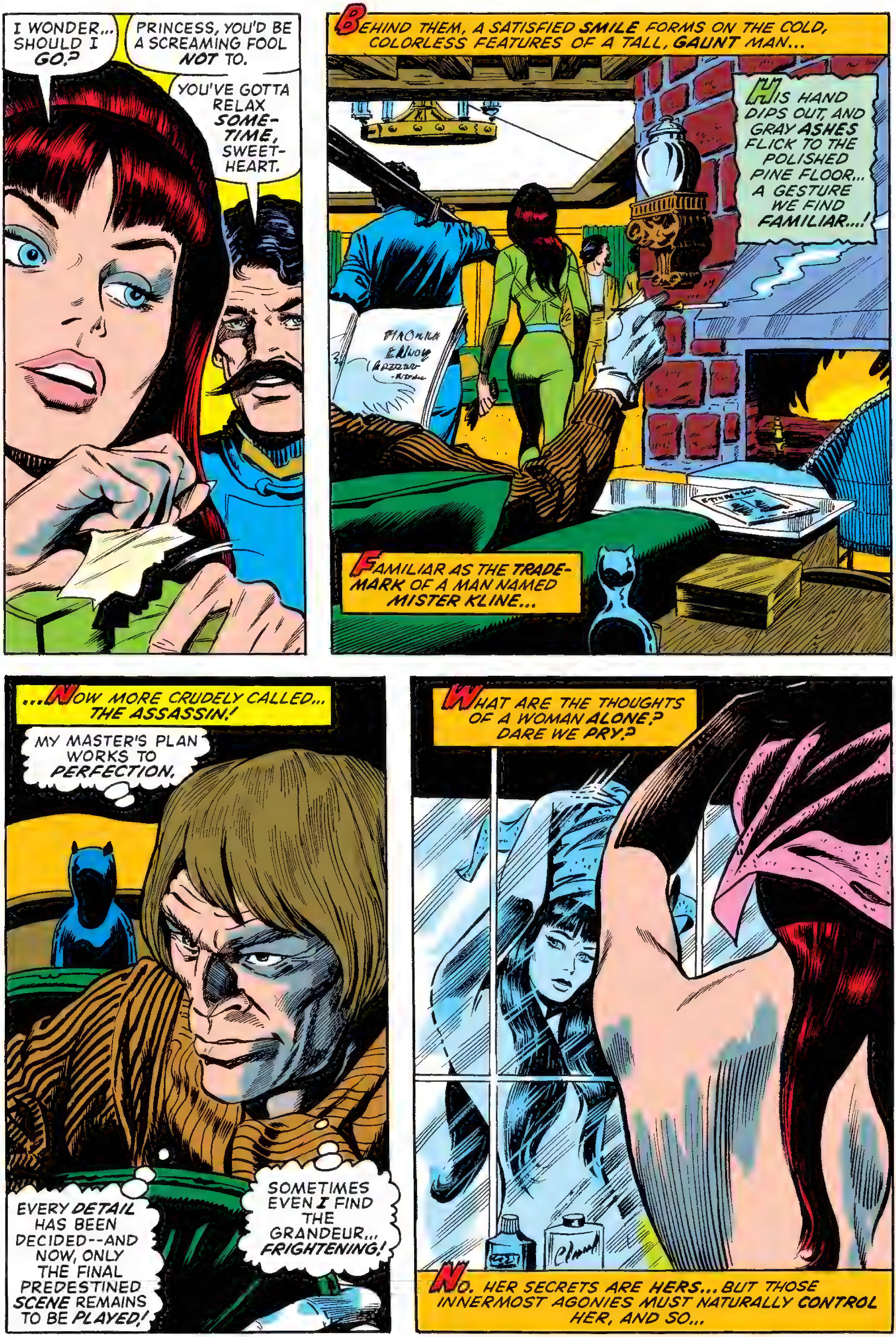
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

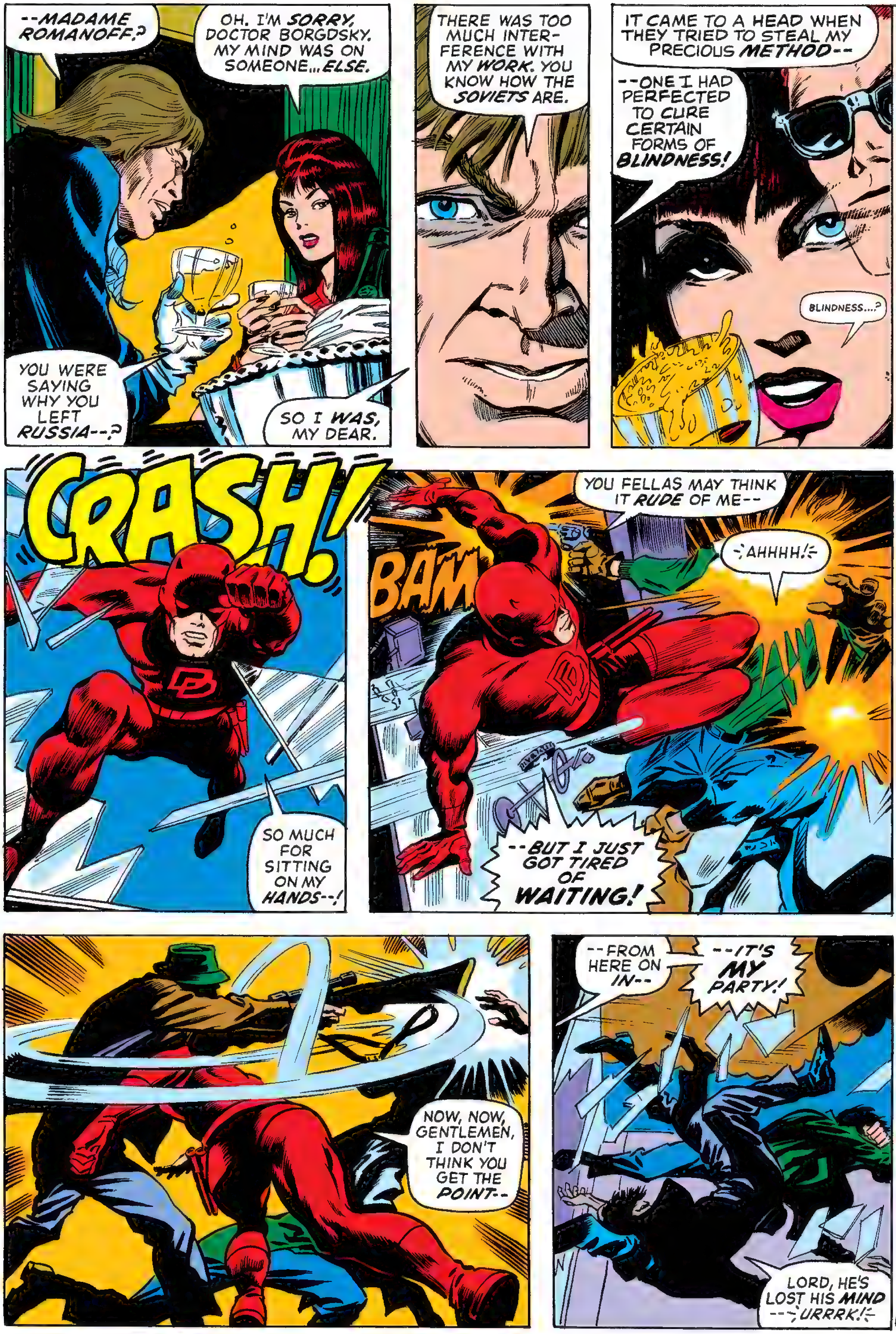

NIGHT OF THE ASSASSIN!
THE LAST WARM EVENING OF A MUGGY OCTOBER--AND PAUSING FOR A MOMENT ON HIS SELF-APPOINTED ROUNDS, A MOONLIT MAN WITHOUT FEAR--!
CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT THAT EDITORIAL IN THE DAILY BUGLE! ACCORDING TO J. JONAH JAMESON--
"--AN ELITE BAND OF SUPER-POWERED VIGILANTES IS WREAKING HAVOC ON THE AVERAGE CITIZEN--AND HAS TO BE STOPPED--NOW!"
I WONDER IF THAT KIND OF LOGIC IS WHAT CAUSED MY EX-FRIEND AND LAW-PARTNER, FOGGY NELSON, TO PROSECUTE THE BLACK WIDOW--!*
IF SO--IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR THIS CRAZY, MADMAN WORLD?
STAN LEE, EDITOR
GERRY CONWAY, SCRIPTER
GENE COLAN, ARTIST
SYD SHORES, INKER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER
*LAST ISSUE, FRIENDS. --STAN.
7542

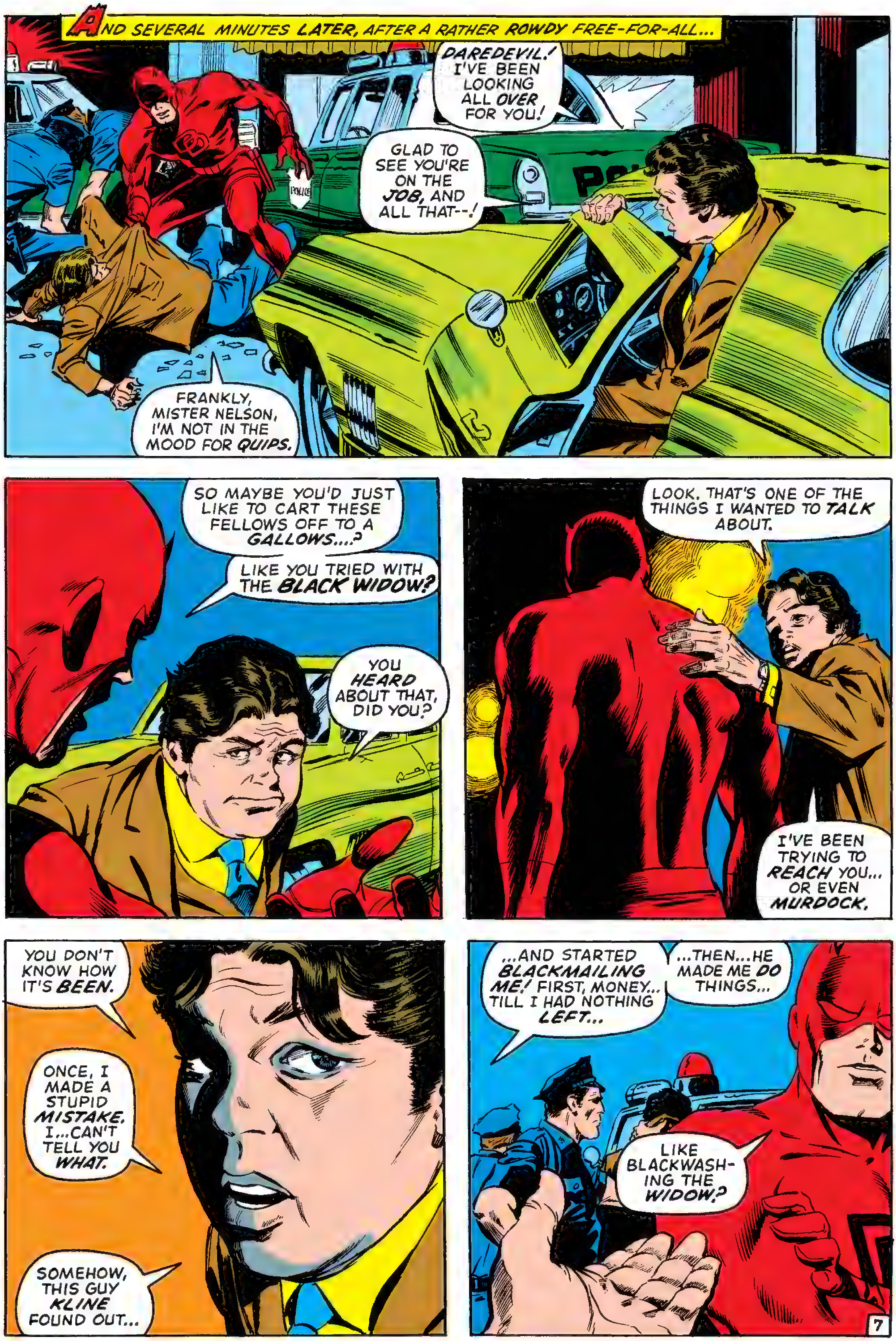

HMMM...NO TIME FOR SOLILOQUIZING, MATTHEW--
--YOUR PUBLIC CALLS!
WOOO WOOO
AND IF THERE'S ONE THING A BLIND CRUSADER WITH HYPER-SENSES CAN RECOGNIZE--
--IT'S THE PLAINTIVE WAIL OF A JEWELRY-STORE ALARM!
SCRREEEECH!
UH-HUH! SEEMS I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH EARS IN THIS BURG...!
I'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FOGGY LATER.
BAM!
RIGHT NOW, THE OLD HEROIC BLOOD'S UP--AND THE TIPS OF MY KNUCKLES ARE ITCHING--
--AND THINGS NO LONGER LOOK QUITE SO DULL!
CHEEEEE-RIPES! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'--PLAYING TARGET?
PCT 4
GET THAT FOOL SKULL DOWN, BOY--
--BEFORE ONE'A THOSE GUN-CRAZED MANIACS SHATTERS IT LIKE A HAMMERED EGG!
SPANNNG!
YEP--

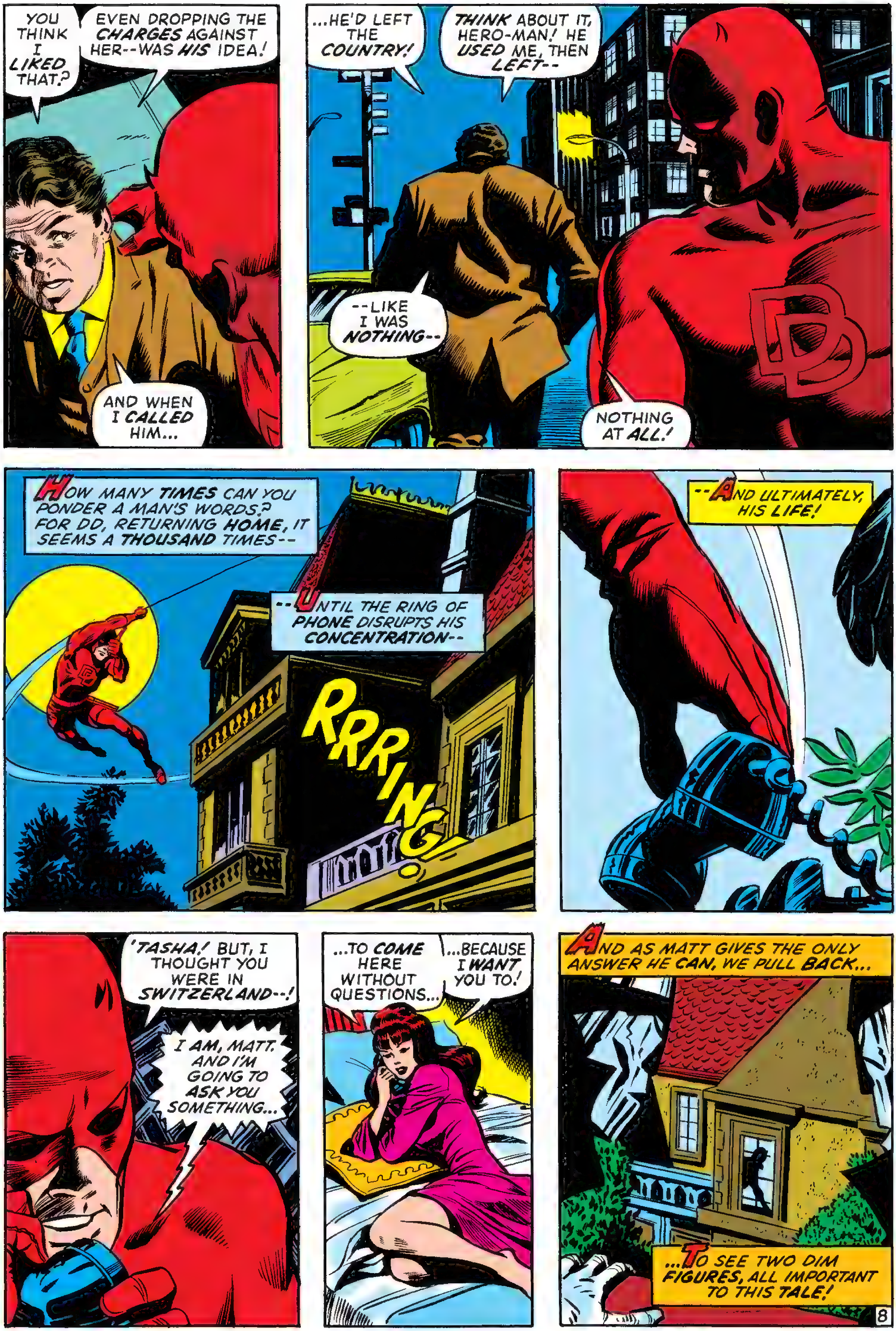

THE WAY THEY'RE PUMPING SHELLS THROUGH THAT GLASS--
--MAKES ME THINK I'LL HAVE AN ACTIVE EVENING, AFTER ALL.
BAM
BAM!
--LOOKS LIKE I'VE PICKED MYSELF AN AMPLE DIVERSION, ALL RIGHT--!
THOSE NASTIES AREN'T NICKEL-AND-DIME MEN!
AT LEAST THIS WAY MY MIND WON'T BE CIRCLING THE IMAGE OF A CERTAIN LOVELY LADY--
--SOMEONE I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE AGAIN--!
ISN'T IT ODD, MATT MURDOCK? ...RIGHT NOW, IT'S MID-AFTERNOON ON CERTAIN ICE-CAPPED SLOPES...
AND MAYBE IF YOU COULD SEE THOSE DISTANT HILLS, FRAMED AGAINST A DUST-GRAY SKY, POISED FOR AN INSTANT IN THE BITTER SWISS AIR, THERE'D BE A GRACEFULLY SKIING WOMAN...
A WOMAN SOME MEN CALL... THE BLACK WIDOW!
TIME SEEMS TO DRIFT BY FOR THAT SLEEK-SUITED FIGURE, ALL SENSE OF MOTION MELTING IN THAT ETERNAL MOMENT... AND AS SUDDENLY AS IT'S FORMED...

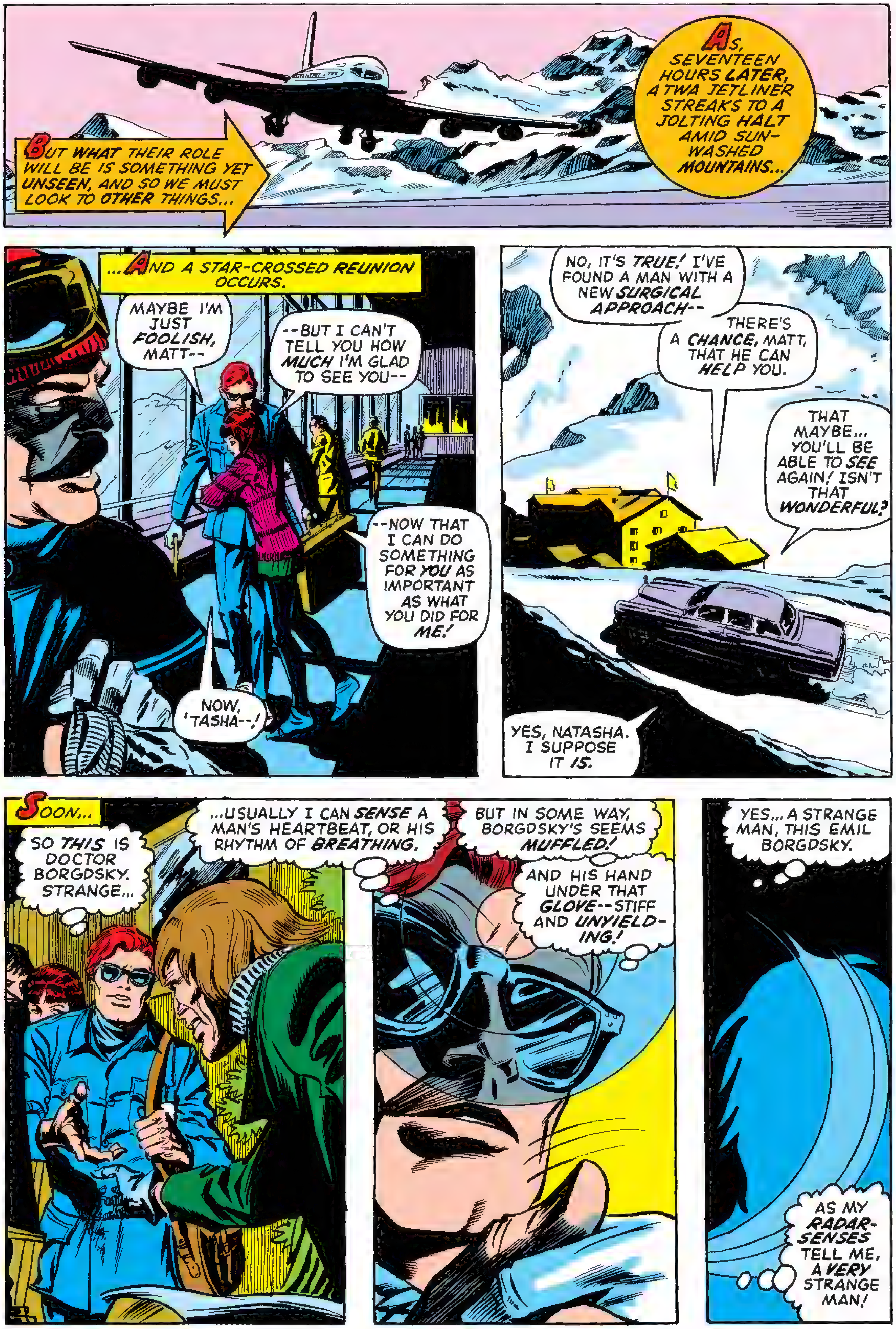

...THE MOMENT **BREAKS!**
THIS IS JUST WHAT I ***NEEDED...*** SOMETHING TO ***TIRE*** ME, AND CLEAN THOSE ***MEMORIES*** FROM MY MIND!
AND...IT'S ***WORKED.***
ALMOST!
AFTER ALL, WHY SHOULD I ***CARE*** ABOUT ***MATT MURDOCK?*** HE WAS JUST MY ***LAWYER...*** AND ***YET...!***
...WHEN I THINK OF ***AMERICA,*** AND MY RECENT ***TRIAL,*** I CAN FIND ONLY ***BITTERNESS.*** BUT WHEN I THINK OF ***HIM--?***
IVAN, I THINK IT'S TIME WE ***RETURN*** TO THE LODGE...
...I FIND MYSELF GAINING... A ***CHILL!***
AND SOON, IN THAT OASIS OF ***WARMTH...***
MADAME NATASHA? PLEASE EXCUSE ME, BUT I--
THERE IS A ***NOTE.***
OH?
IVAN, IT APPEARS WE HAVE A ***COUNTRYMAN*** AT THIS RESORT.
...A DOCTOR ***EMIL BORGDSKY.***
Will you honor me by dining with me this evening? A countryman of yours
Emil Borgdsky
HE BEGS MY PRESENCE AT ***DINNER*** THIS EVENING.

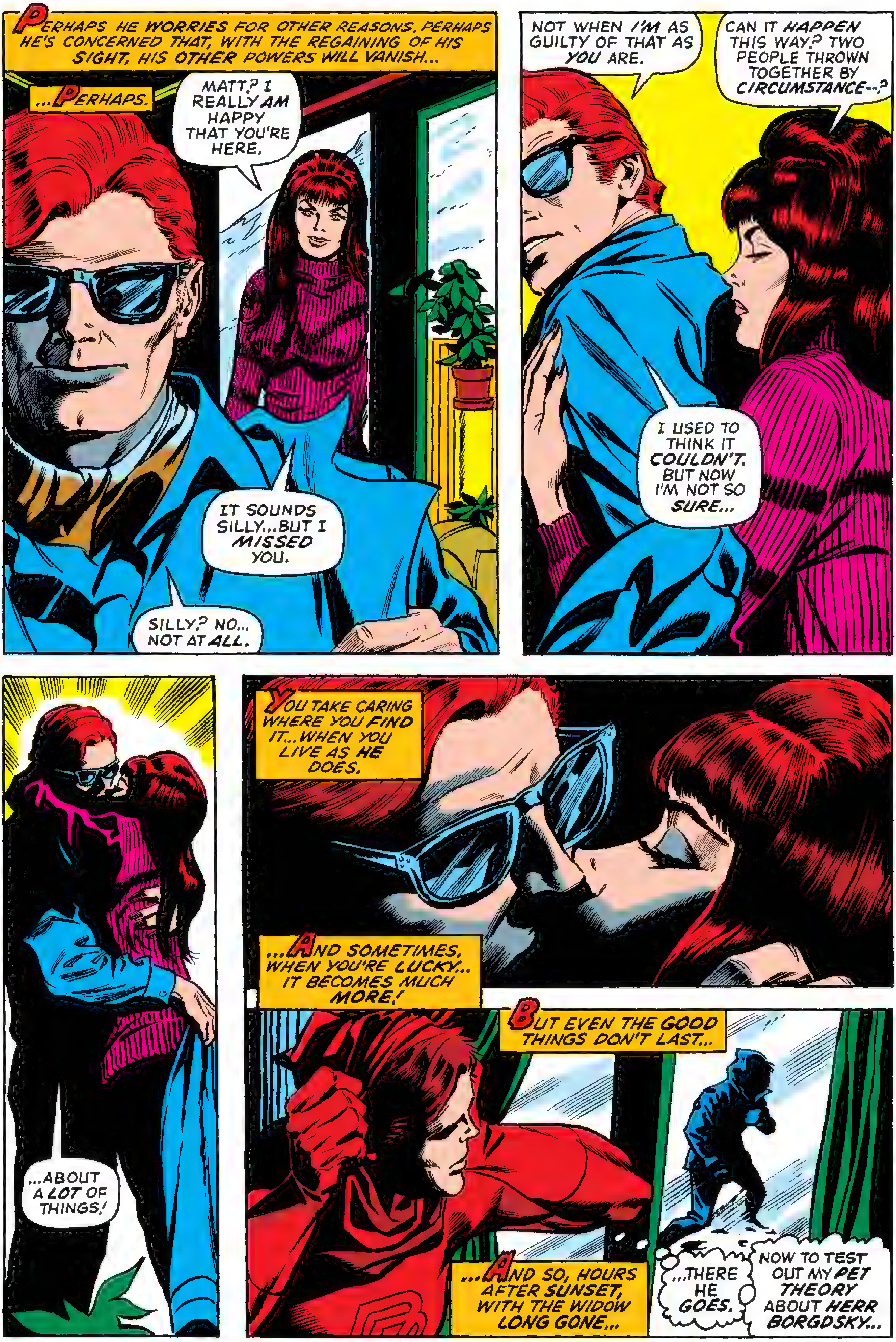

I WONDER... SHOULD I GO?
PRINCESS, YOU'D BE A SCREAMING FOOL NOT TO.
YOU'VE GOTTA RELAX SOMETIME, SWEETHEART.
BEHIND THEM, A SATISFIED SMILE FORMS ON THE COLD, COLORLESS FEATURES OF A TALL, GAUNT MAN...
HIS HAND DIPS OUT, AND GRAY ASHES FLICK TO THE POLISHED PINE FLOOR... A GESTURE WE FIND FAMILIAR...!
FAMILIAR AS THE TRADEMARK OF A MAN NAMED MISTER KLINE...
...NOW MORE CRUDELY CALLED... THE ASSASSIN!
MY MASTER'S PLAN WORKS TO PERFECTION.
EVERY DETAIL HAS BEEN DECIDED--AND NOW, ONLY THE FINAL PREDESTINED SCENE REMAINS TO BE PLAYED!
SOMETIMES EVEN I FIND THE GRANDEUR... FRIGHTENING!
WHAT ARE THE THOUGHTS OF A WOMAN ALONE? DARE WE PRY?
NO. HER SECRETS ARE HERS... BUT THOSE INNERMOST AGONIES MUST NATURALLY CONTROL HER, AND SO...

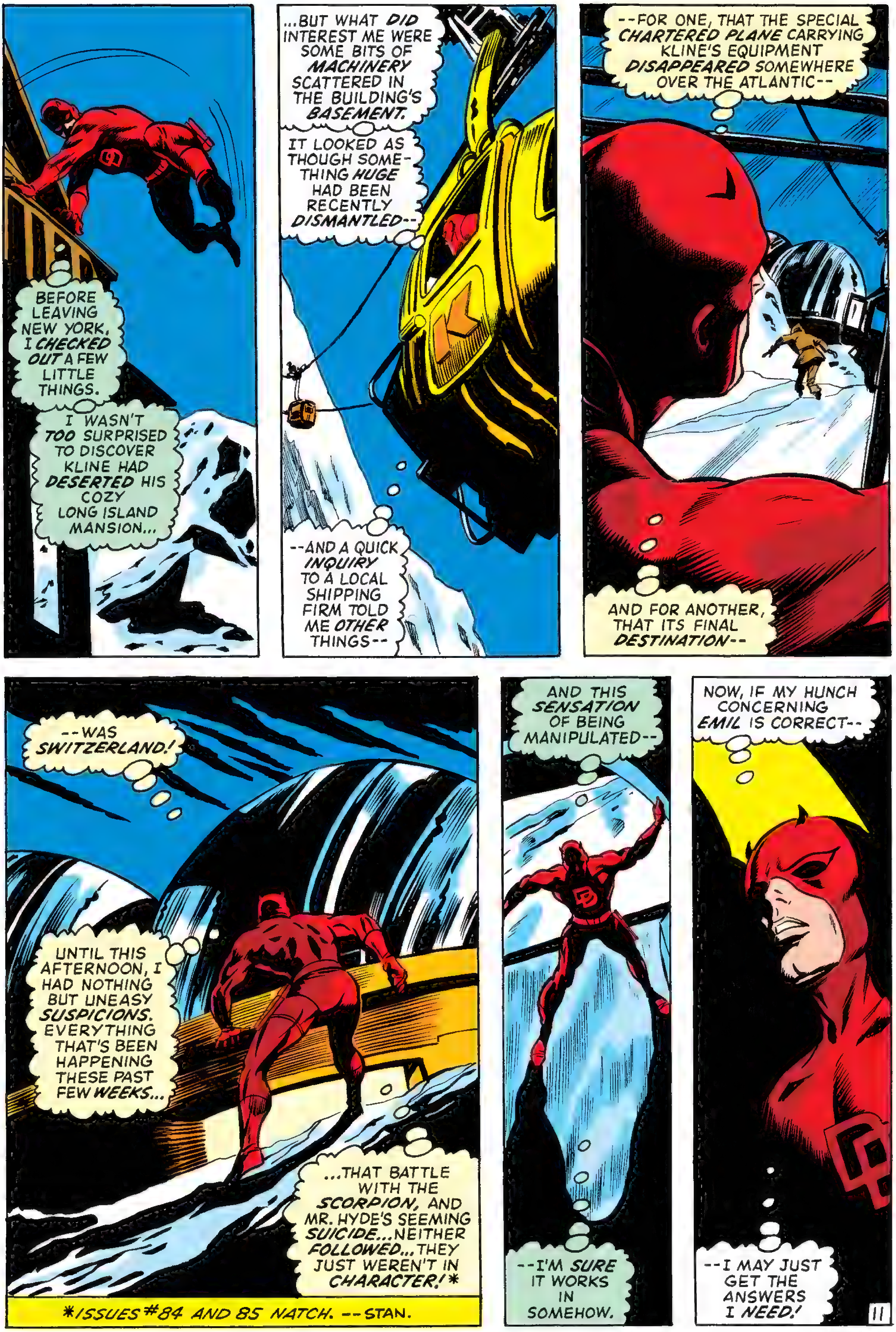

--MADAME ROMANOFF..?
OH. I'M *SORRY,* DOCTOR BORGDSKY. MY MIND WAS ON SOMEONE... *ELSE.*
YOU WERE SAYING WHY YOU LEFT *RUSSIA*--?
SO I *WAS,* MY DEAR.
THERE WAS TOO MUCH INTERFERENCE WITH MY *WORK.* YOU KNOW HOW THE *SOVIETS* ARE.
IT CAME TO A HEAD WHEN THEY TRIED TO STEAL MY PRECIOUS *METHOD*--
--ONE I HAD PERFECTED TO CURE CERTAIN FORMS OF *BLINDNESS!*
BLINDNESS...?
CRASH!
SO MUCH FOR SITTING ON MY *HANDS*--!
BAM
YOU FELLAS MAY THINK IT *RUDE* OF ME--
AHHHH!
--*BUT I JUST GOT TIRED OF WAITING!*
NOW, NOW, GENTLEMEN, I DON'T THINK YOU GET THE *POINT*--
--FROM HERE ON IN--
--*IT'S MY PARTY!*
LORD, HE'S LOST HIS *MIND* --*URRRK!*

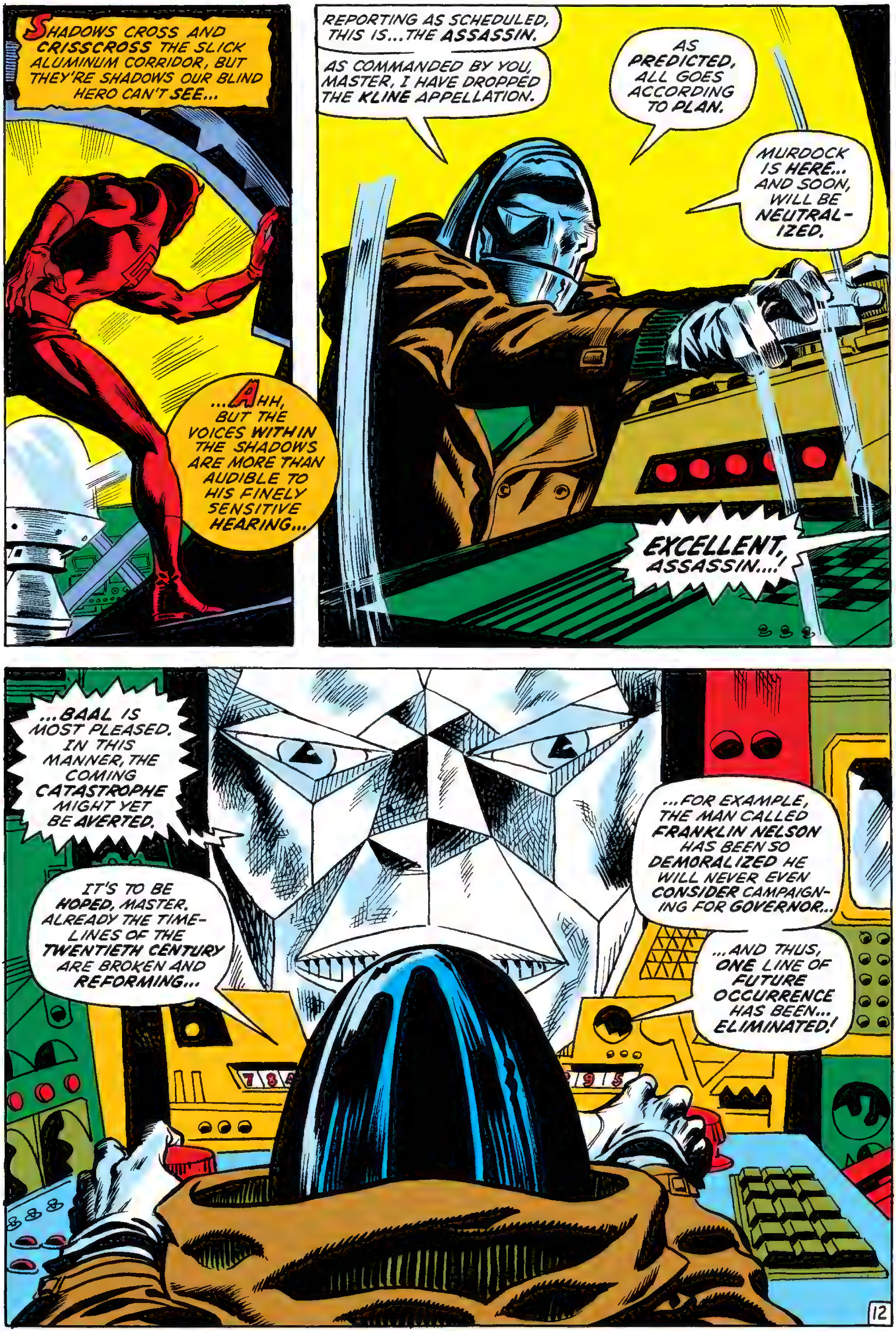

AND SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, AFTER A RATHER ROWDY FREE-FOR-ALL...
DAREDEVIL! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ON THE JOB, AND ALL THAT--!
FRANKLY, MISTER NELSON, I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR QUIPS.
SO MAYBE YOU'D JUST LIKE TO CART THESE FELLOWS OFF TO A GALLOWS...?
LIKE YOU TRIED WITH THE BLACK WIDOW?
YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT, DID YOU?
LOOK, THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU... OR EVEN MURDOCK.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S BEEN.
ONCE, I MADE A STUPID MISTAKE. I...CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT.
SOMEHOW, THIS GUY KLINE FOUND OUT...
...AND STARTED BLACKMAILING ME! FIRST, MONEY... TILL I HAD NOTHING LEFT...
...THEN...HE MADE ME DO THINGS...
LIKE BLACKWASHING THE WIDOW?
POLICE

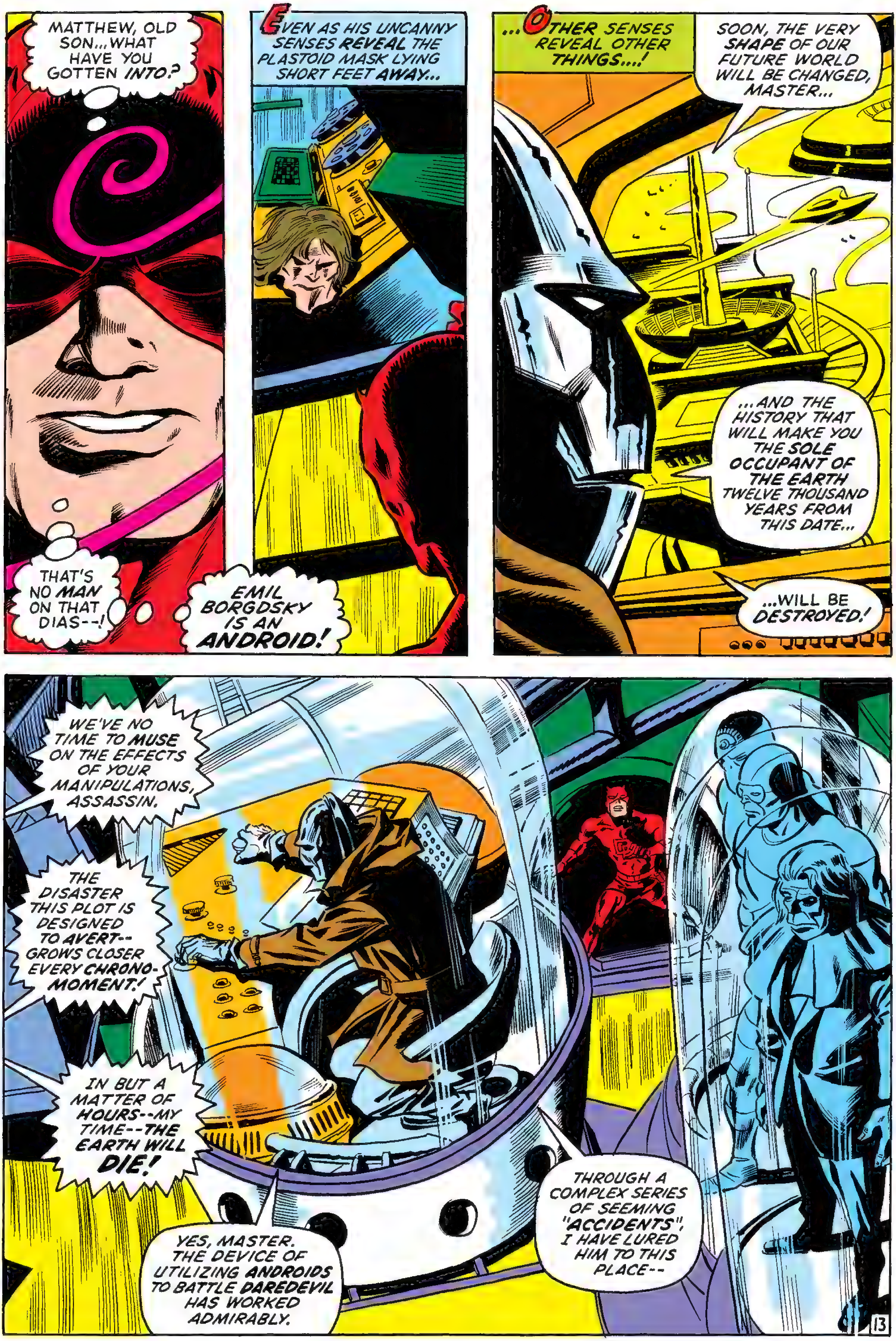

YOU THINK I *LIKED* THAT?
EVEN DROPPING THE *CHARGES* AGAINST HER--WAS *HIS* IDEA!
AND WHEN I *CALLED* HIM...
...HE'D LEFT THE *COUNTRY!*
THINK ABOUT IT, HERO-MAN! HE *USED* ME, THEN *LEFT*--
--LIKE I WAS *NOTHING*--
NOTHING AT *ALL!*
HOW MANY *TIMES* CAN YOU PONDER A MAN'S WORDS? FOR DD, RETURNING *HOME*, IT SEEMS A *THOUSAND* TIMES--
--UNTIL THE RING OF *PHONE DISRUPTS HIS CONCENTRATION*--
RRRING!
--AND ULTIMATELY, HIS *LIFE!*
'TASHA! BUT, I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN *SWITZERLAND*--!
I AM, MATT. AND I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING...
...TO *COME* HERE WITHOUT QUESTIONS...
...BECAUSE I *WANT* YOU TO!
AND AS MATT GIVES THE ONLY ANSWER HE *CAN*, WE PULL *BACK*...
...TO SEE TWO DIM *FIGURES*, ALL IMPORTANT TO THIS *TALE!*

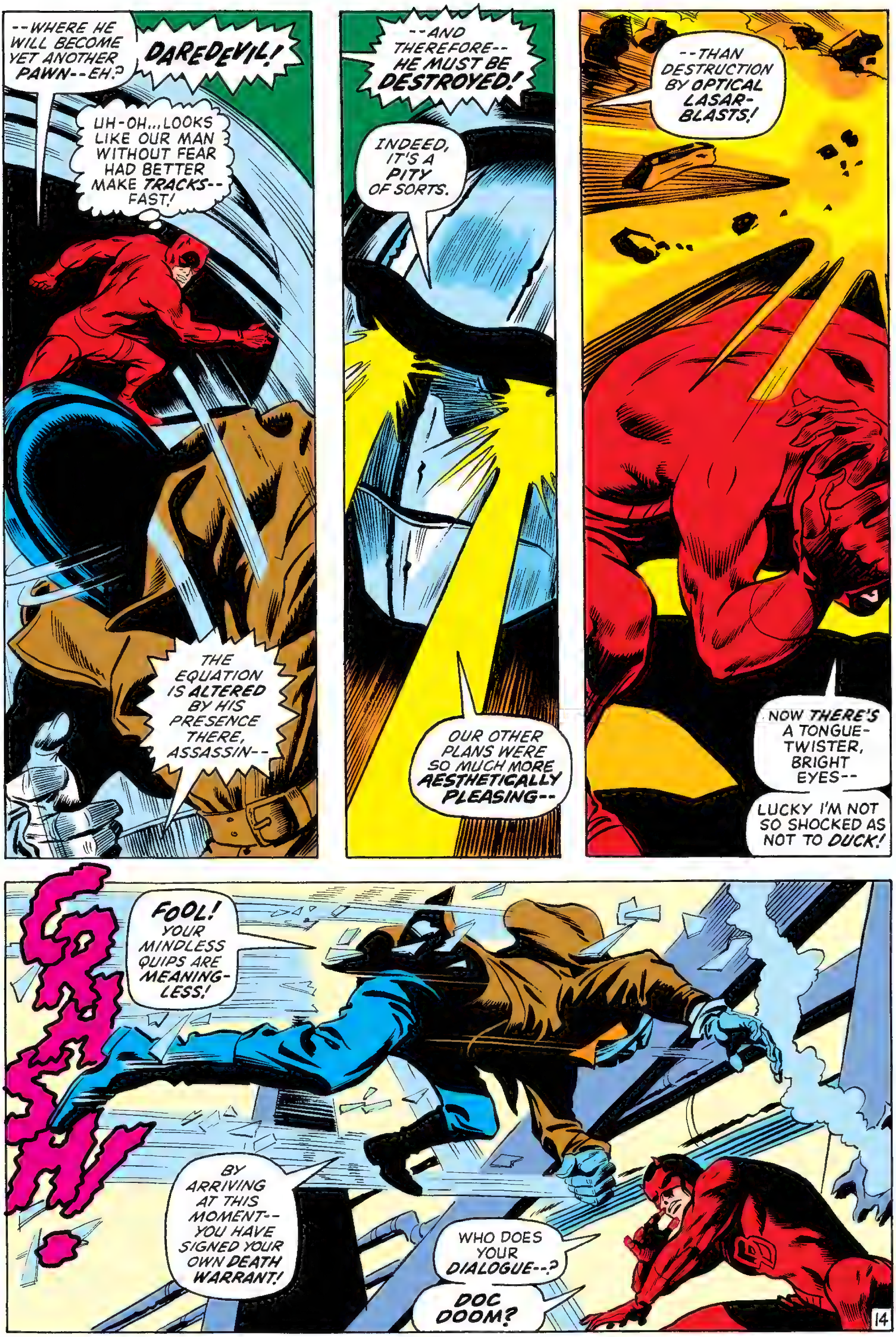

AS, SEVENTEEN HOURS LATER, A TWA JETLINER STREAKS TO A JOLTING HALT AMID SUN-WASHED MOUNTAINS...
BUT WHAT THEIR ROLE WILL BE IS SOMETHING YET UNSEEN, AND SO WE MUST LOOK TO OTHER THINGS...
...AND A STAR-CROSSED REUNION OCCURS.
MAYBE I'M JUST FOOLISH, MATT--
--BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU--
--NOW THAT I CAN DO SOMETHING FOR YOU AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT YOU DID FOR ME!
NOW, 'TASHA--!
NO, IT'S TRUE! I'VE FOUND A MAN WITH A NEW SURGICAL APPROACH--
THERE'S A CHANCE, MATT, THAT HE CAN HELP YOU.
THAT MAYBE... YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE AGAIN! ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL?
YES, NATASHA. I SUPPOSE IT IS.
SOON...
SO THIS IS DOCTOR BORGDSKY. STRANGE...
...USUALLY I CAN SENSE A MAN'S HEARTBEAT, OR HIS RHYTHM OF BREATHING.
BUT IN SOME WAY, BORGDSKY'S SEEMS MUFFLED!
AND HIS HAND UNDER THAT GLOVE--STIFF AND UNYIELDING!
YES... A STRANGE MAN, THIS EMIL BORGDSKY.
AS MY RADAR-SENSES TELL ME, A VERY STRANGE MAN!

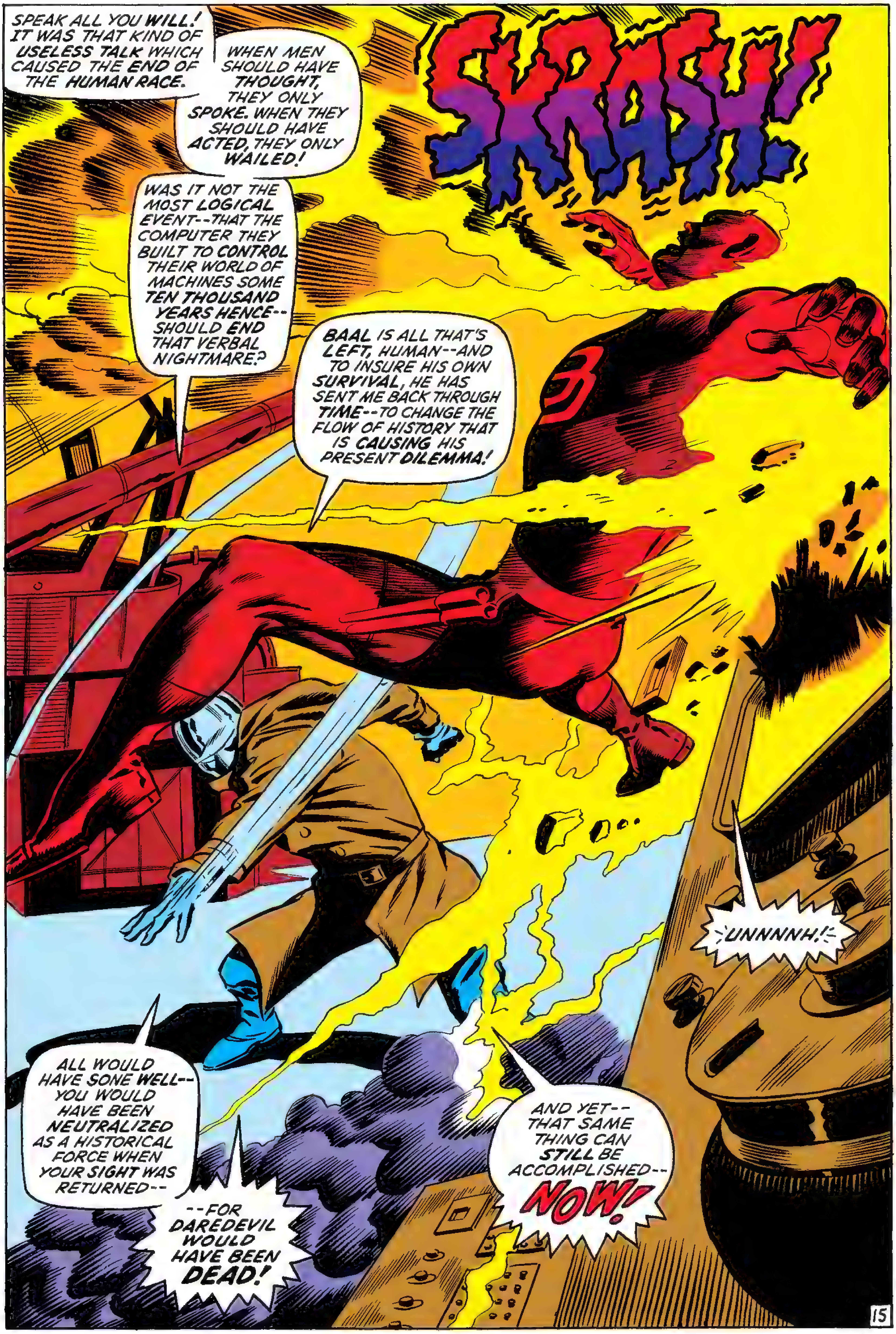

PERHAPS HE WORRIES FOR OTHER REASONS. PERHAPS HE'S CONCERNED THAT, WITH THE REGAINING OF HIS SIGHT, HIS OTHER POWERS WILL VANISH...
...PERHAPS.
MATT? I REALLY AM HAPPY THAT YOU'RE HERE.
IT SOUNDS SILLY...BUT I MISSED YOU.
SILLY? NO... NOT AT ALL.
NOT WHEN I'M AS GUILTY OF THAT AS YOU ARE.
CAN IT HAPPEN THIS WAY? TWO PEOPLE THROWN TOGETHER BY CIRCUMSTANCE--?
I USED TO THINK IT COULDN'T. BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE...
...ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS!
YOU TAKE CARING WHERE YOU FIND IT...WHEN YOU LIVE AS HE DOES.
...AND SOMETIMES, WHEN YOU'RE LUCKY... IT BECOMES MUCH MORE!
BUT EVEN THE GOOD THINGS DON'T LAST...
...AND SO, HOURS AFTER SUNSET, WITH THE WIDOW LONG GONE...
...THERE HE GOES.
NOW TO TEST OUT MY PET THEORY ABOUT HERR BORGDSKY...

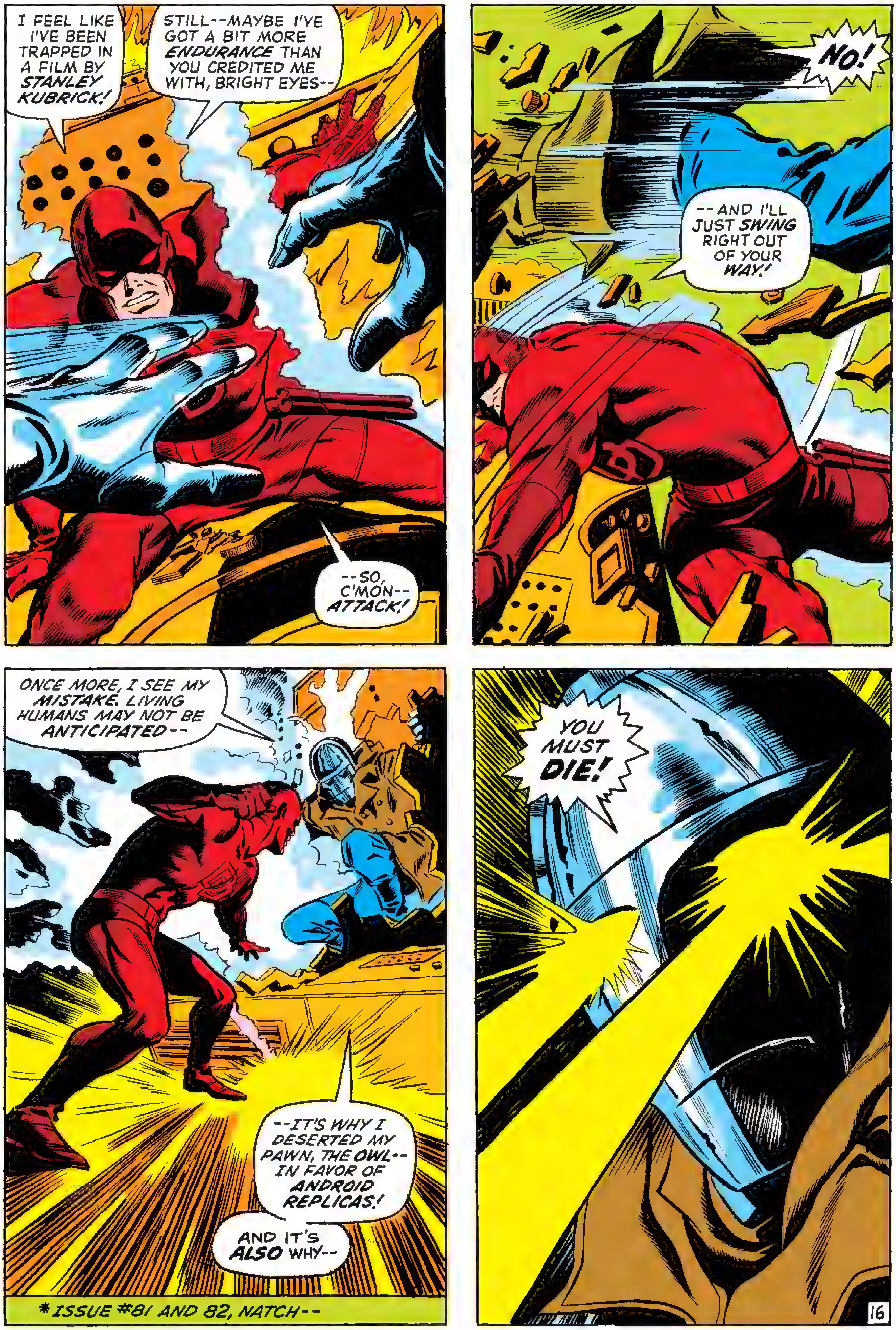

BEFORE LEAVING NEW YORK, I *CHECKED OUT* A FEW LITTLE THINGS.
I WASN'T *TOO* SURPRISED TO DISCOVER KLINE HAD *DESERTED* HIS COZY LONG ISLAND MANSION...
...BUT WHAT *DID* INTEREST ME WERE SOME BITS OF *MACHINERY* SCATTERED IN THE BUILDING'S *BASEMENT.*
IT LOOKED AS THOUGH SOMETHING *HUGE* HAD BEEN RECENTLY *DISMANTLED*--
--AND A QUICK *INQUIRY* TO A LOCAL SHIPPING FIRM TOLD ME *OTHER* THINGS--
--FOR ONE, THAT THE SPECIAL *CHARTERED PLANE* CARRYING KLINE'S EQUIPMENT *DISAPPEARED* SOMEWHERE OVER THE ATLANTIC--
AND FOR ANOTHER, THAT ITS FINAL *DESTINATION*--
--WAS *SWITZERLAND!*
UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON, I HAD NOTHING BUT UNEASY *SUSPICIONS.* EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THESE PAST FEW *WEEKS...*
...THAT BATTLE WITH THE *SCORPION,* AND MR. HYDE'S SEEMING *SUICIDE...*NEITHER *FOLLOWED...*THEY JUST WEREN'T IN *CHARACTER!**
**ISSUES #84 AND 85 NATCH.* --STAN.
AND THIS *SENSATION* OF BEING MANIPULATED--
--I'M *SURE* IT WORKS IN SOMEHOW.
NOW, IF MY HUNCH CONCERNING *EMIL* IS CORRECT--
--I MAY JUST GET THE ANSWERS I *NEED!*

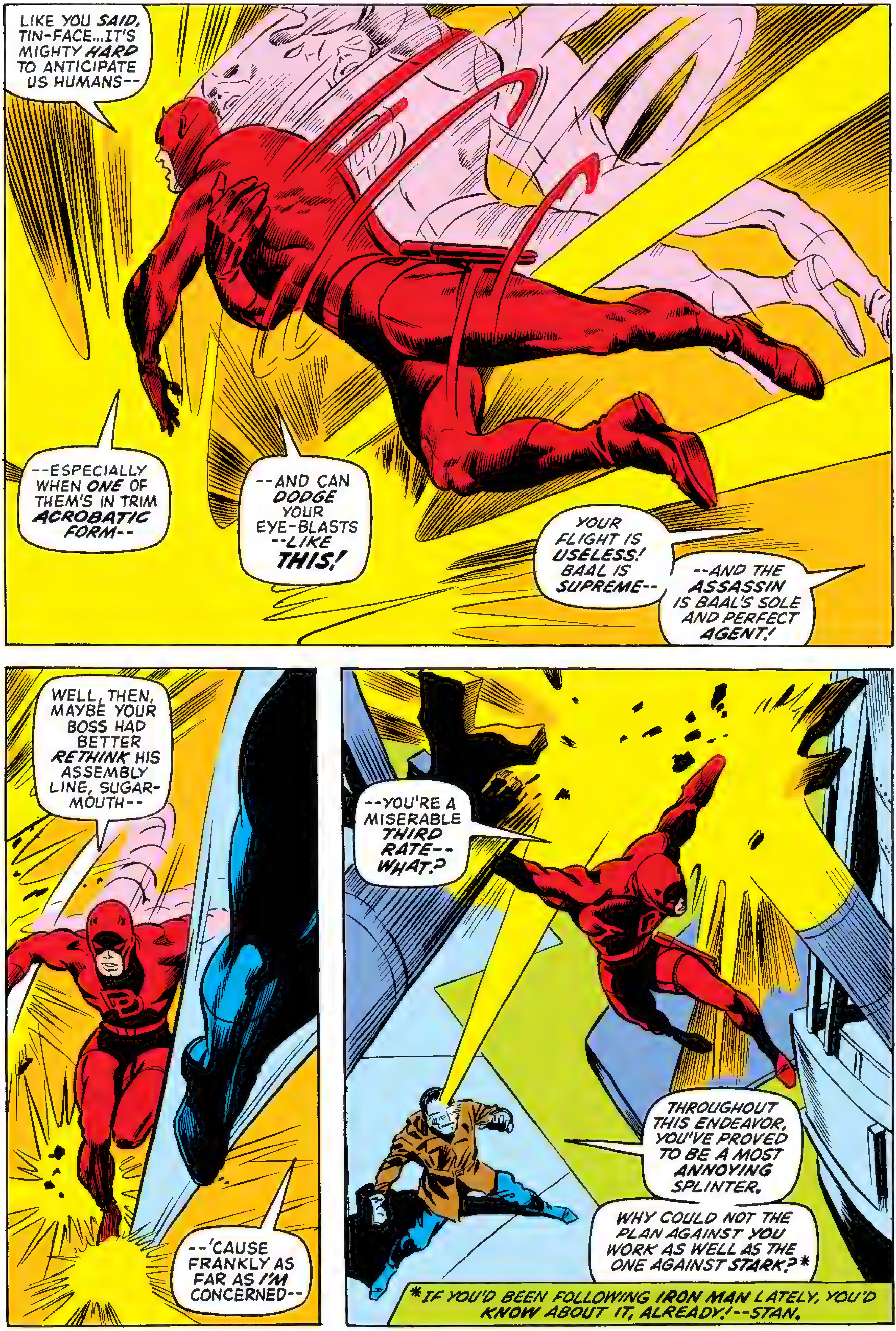

SHADOWS CROSS AND CRISSCROSS THE SLICK ALUMINUM CORRIDOR, BUT THEY'RE SHADOWS OUR BLIND HERO CAN'T SEE...
...AHH, BUT THE VOICES WITHIN THE SHADOWS ARE MORE THAN AUDIBLE TO HIS FINELY SENSITIVE HEARING...
REPORTING AS SCHEDULED, THIS IS...THE ASSASSIN.
AS COMMANDED BY YOU, MASTER, I HAVE DROPPED THE KLINE APPELLATION.
AS PREDICTED, ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN.
MURDOCK IS HERE... AND SOON, WILL BE NEUTRALIZED.
EXCELLENT, ASSASSIN...!
...BAAL IS MOST PLEASED. IN THIS MANNER, THE COMING CATASTROPHE MIGHT YET BE AVERTED.
IT'S TO BE HOPED, MASTER. ALREADY THE TIME-LINES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ARE BROKEN AND REFORMING...
...FOR EXAMPLE, THE MAN CALLED FRANKLIN NELSON HAS BEEN SO DEMORALIZED HE WILL NEVER EVEN CONSIDER CAMPAIGNING FOR GOVERNOR...
...AND THUS, ONE LINE OF FUTURE OCCURRENCE HAS BEEN... ELIMINATED!

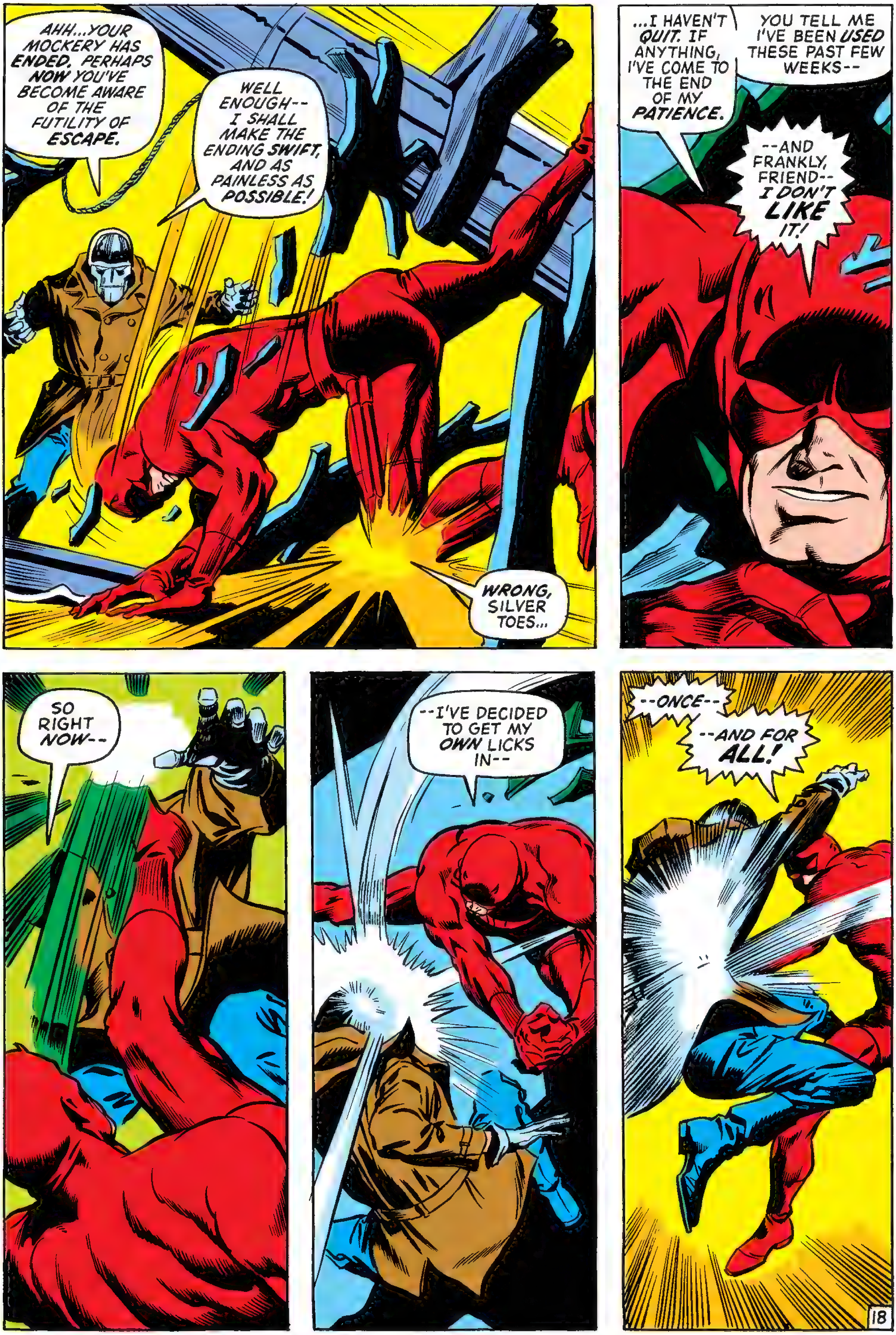

MATTHEW, OLD SON...WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN INTO?
THAT'S NO MAN ON THAT DIAS--!
EVEN AS HIS UNCANNY SENSES REVEAL THE PLASTOID MASK LYING SHORT FEET AWAY...
EMIL BORGDSKY IS AN ANDROID!
...OTHER SENSES REVEAL OTHER THINGS...!
SOON, THE VERY SHAPE OF OUR FUTURE WORLD WILL BE CHANGED, MASTER...
...AND THE HISTORY THAT WILL MAKE YOU THE SOLE OCCUPANT OF THE EARTH TWELVE THOUSAND YEARS FROM THIS DATE...
...WILL BE DESTROYED!
WE'VE NO TIME TO MUSE ON THE EFFECTS OF YOUR MANIPULATIONS, ASSASSIN.
THE DISASTER THIS PLOT IS DESIGNED TO AVERT--GROWS CLOSER EVERY CHRONO-MOMENT!
IN BUT A MATTER OF HOURS--MY TIME--THE EARTH WILL DIE!
YES, MASTER. THE DEVICE OF UTILIZING ANDROIDS TO BATTLE DAREDEVIL HAS WORKED ADMIRABLY.
THROUGH A COMPLEX SERIES OF SEEMING "ACCIDENTS", I HAVE LURED HIM TO THIS PLACE--

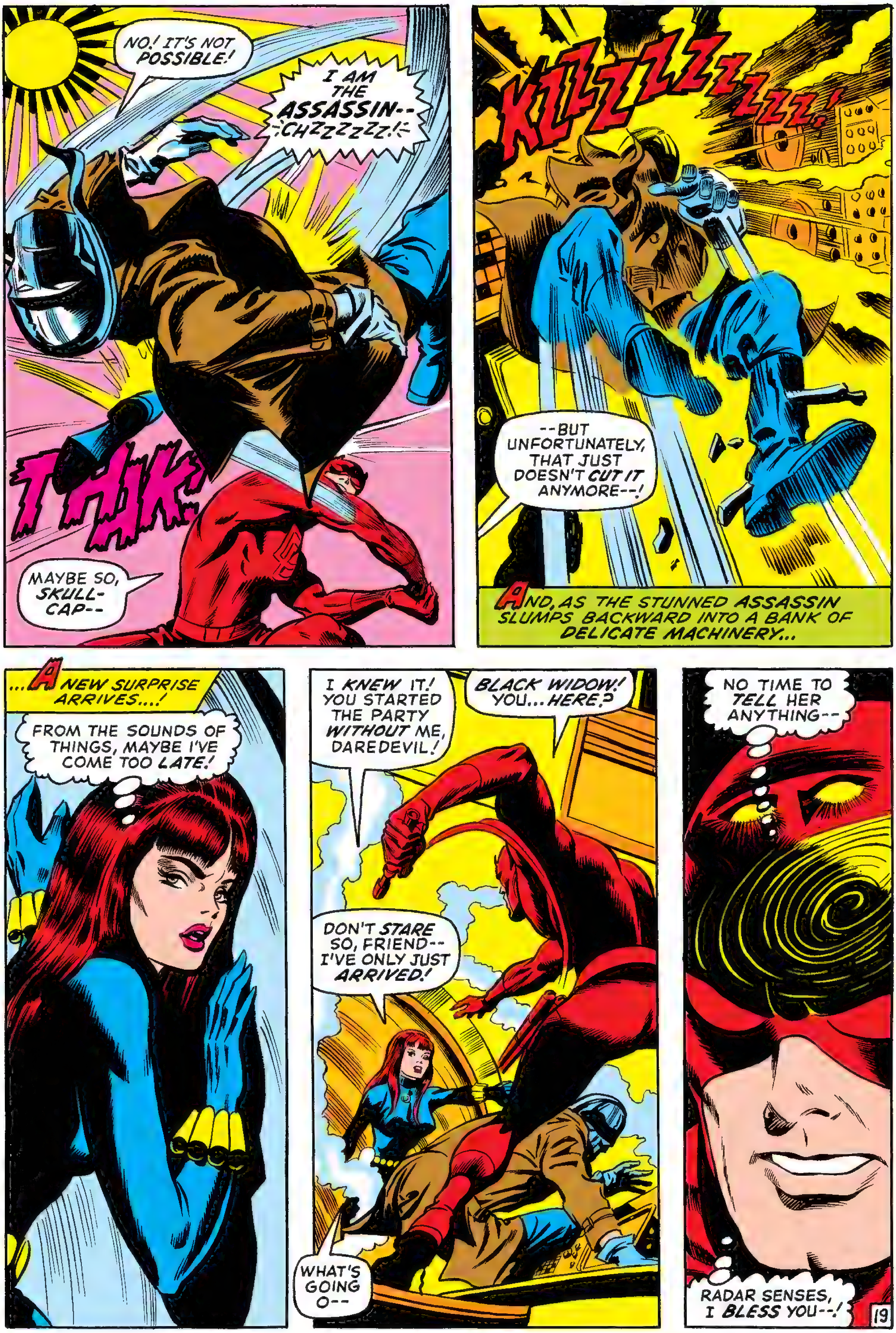

--WHERE HE WILL BECOME YET ANOTHER PAWN--EH?
DAREDEVIL!
UH-OH...LOOKS LIKE OUR MAN WITHOUT FEAR HAD BETTER MAKE TRACKS--FAST!
THE EQUATION IS ALTERED BY HIS PRESENCE THERE, ASSASSIN--
--AND THEREFORE--HE MUST BE DESTROYED!
INDEED, IT'S A PITY OF SORTS.
OUR OTHER PLANS WERE SO MUCH MORE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING--
--THAN DESTRUCTION BY OPTICAL LASAR-BLASTS!
NOW THERE'S A TONGUE-TWISTER, BRIGHT EYES--
LUCKY I'M NOT SO SHOCKED AS NOT TO DUCK!
CRASH!
FOOL! YOUR MINDLESS QUIPS ARE MEANINGLESS!
BY ARRIVING AT THIS MOMENT--YOU HAVE SIGNED YOUR OWN DEATH WARRANT!
WHO DOES YOUR DIALOGUE--?
DOC DOOM?

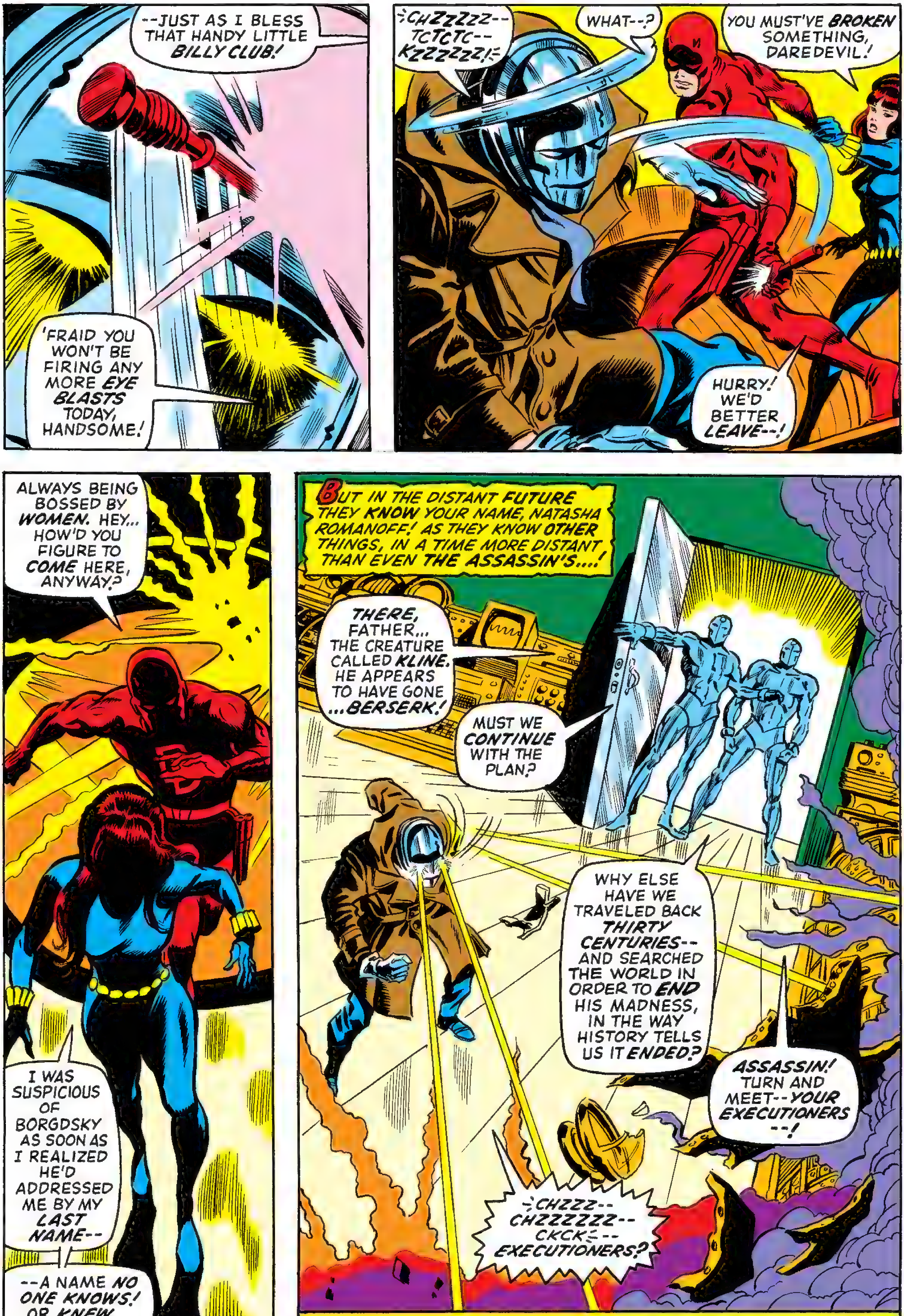

SPEAK ALL YOU WILL! IT WAS THAT KIND OF USELESS TALK WHICH CAUSED THE END OF THE HUMAN RACE.
WHEN MEN SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT, THEY ONLY SPOKE. WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE ACTED, THEY ONLY WAILED!
SKRASH!
WAS IT NOT THE MOST LOGICAL EVENT--THAT THE COMPUTER THEY BUILT TO CONTROL THEIR WORLD OF MACHINES SOME TEN THOUSAND YEARS HENCE--SHOULD END THAT VERBAL NIGHTMARE?
BAAL IS ALL THAT'S LEFT, HUMAN--AND TO INSURE HIS OWN SURVIVAL, HE HAS SENT ME BACK THROUGH TIME--TO CHANGE THE FLOW OF HISTORY THAT IS CAUSING HIS PRESENT DILEMMA!
UNNNNH!
ALL WOULD HAVE SONE WELL--YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN NEUTRALIZED AS A HISTORICAL FORCE WHEN YOUR SIGHT WAS RETURNED--
--FOR DAREDEVIL WOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD!
AND YET--THAT SAME THING CAN STILL BE ACCOMPLISHED--NOW!


I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN TRAPPED IN A FILM BY **STANLEY KUBRICK!**
STILL--MAYBE I'VE GOT A BIT MORE *ENDURANCE* THAN YOU CREDITED ME WITH, BRIGHT EYES--
--SO, C'MON-- *ATTACK!*
NO!
--AND I'LL JUST *SWING* RIGHT OUT OF YOUR *WAY!*
*ONCE MORE, I SEE MY **MISTAKE.** LIVING HUMANS MAY NOT BE **ANTICIPATED**--*
*--IT'S WHY I DESERTED MY PAWN, THE **OWL**-- IN FAVOR OF **ANDROID REPLICAS!***
AND IT'S *ALSO* WHY--
YOU MUST DIE!
**ISSUE #81 AND 82, NATCH--*

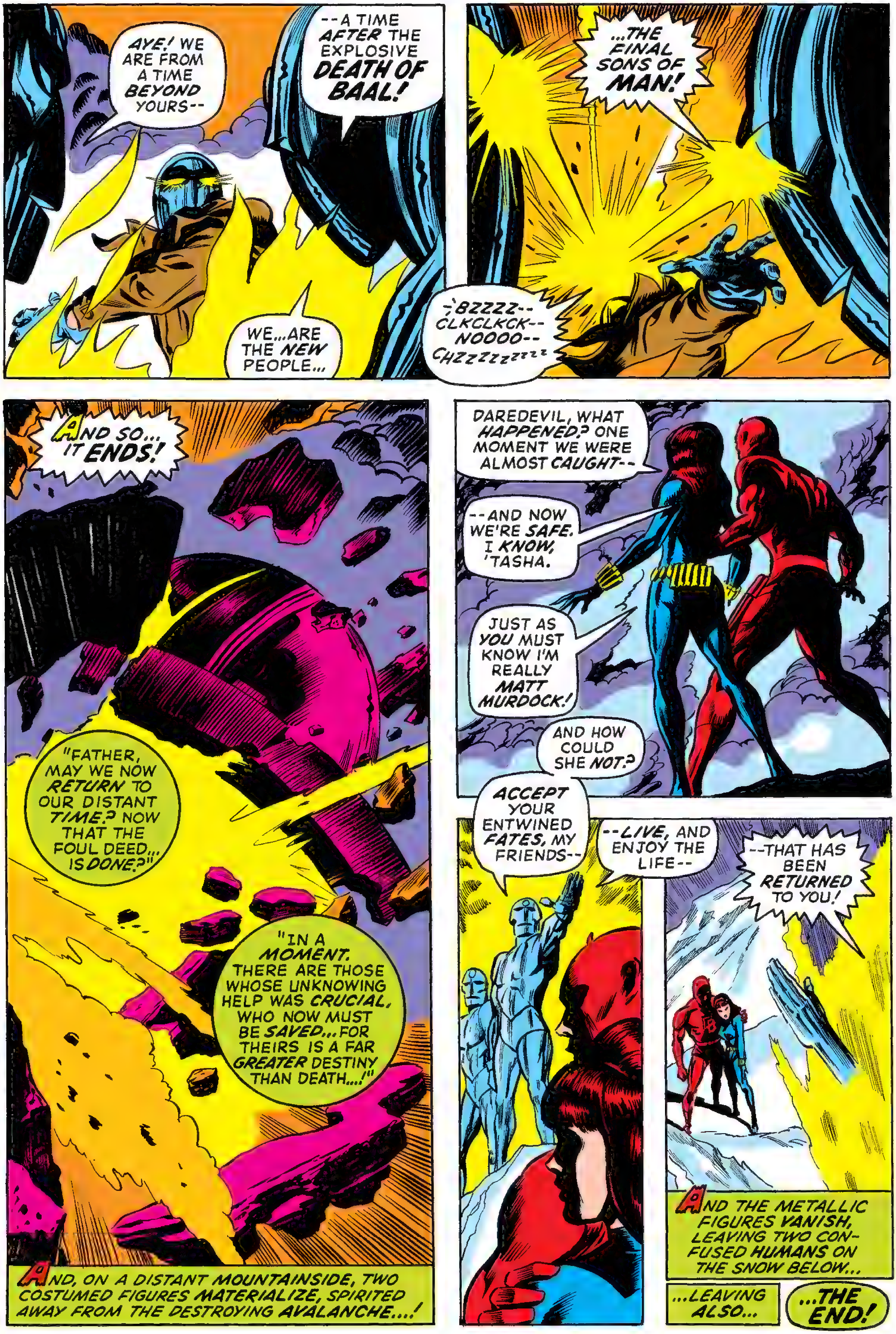

LIKE YOU SAID, TIN-FACE...IT'S MIGHTY HARD TO ANTICIPATE US HUMANS--
--ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE OF THEM'S IN TRIM ACROBATIC FORM--
--AND CAN DODGE YOUR EYE-BLASTS --LIKE THIS!
YOUR FLIGHT IS USELESS! BAAL IS SUPREME--
--AND THE ASSASSIN IS BAAL'S SOLE AND PERFECT AGENT!
WELL, THEN, MAYBE YOUR BOSS HAD BETTER RETHINK HIS ASSEMBLY LINE, SUGAR-MOUTH--
--'CAUSE FRANKLY AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED--
--YOU'RE A MISERABLE THIRD RATE-- WHAT?
THROUGHOUT THIS ENDEAVOR, YOU'VE PROVED TO BE A MOST ANNOYING SPLINTER.
WHY COULD NOT THE PLAN AGAINST YOU WORK AS WELL AS THE ONE AGAINST STARK?*
*IF YOU'D BEEN FOLLOWING IRON MAN LATELY, YOU'D KNOW ABOUT IT, ALREADY!--STAN.


AHH...YOUR MOCKERY HAS ENDED. PERHAPS NOW YOU'VE BECOME AWARE OF THE FUTILITY OF ESCAPE.
WELL ENOUGH-- I SHALL MAKE THE ENDING SWIFT, AND AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE!
WRONG, SILVER TOES...
...I HAVEN'T QUIT. IF ANYTHING, I'VE COME TO THE END OF MY PATIENCE.
YOU TELL ME I'VE BEEN USED THESE PAST FEW WEEKS--
--AND FRANKLY, FRIEND-- I DON'T LIKE IT!
SO RIGHT NOW--
--I'VE DECIDED TO GET MY OWN LICKS IN--
--ONCE--
--AND FOR ALL!


NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
I AM THE ASSASSIN-- CHZZZZZZ!
THAK!
MAYBE SO, SKULL-CAP--
KZZZZZZZZZZ!
--BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THAT JUST DOESN'T CUT IT ANYMORE--!
AND, AS THE STUNNED ASSASSIN SLUMPS BACKWARD INTO A BANK OF DELICATE MACHINERY...
...A NEW SURPRISE ARRIVES...!
FROM THE SOUNDS OF THINGS, MAYBE I'VE COME TOO LATE!
I KNEW IT! YOU STARTED THE PARTY WITHOUT ME, DAREDEVIL!
BLACK WIDOW! YOU... HERE?
DON'T STARE SO, FRIEND-- I'VE ONLY JUST ARRIVED!
WHAT'S GOING O--
NO TIME TO TELL HER ANYTHING--
RADAR SENSES, I BLESS YOU--!


--JUST AS I BLESS THAT HANDY LITTLE **BILLY CLUB!**
'FRAID YOU WON'T BE FIRING ANY MORE **EYE BLASTS** TODAY, HANDSOME!
CHZZZZZ-- TCTCTC-- KZZZZZZ!
WHAT--?
YOU MUST'VE **BROKEN** SOMETHING, DAREDEVIL!
HURRY! WE'D BETTER **LEAVE**--!
ALWAYS BEING BOSSED BY **WOMEN.** HEY... HOW'D YOU FIGURE TO **COME** HERE, ANYWAY?
I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF BORGDSKY AS SOON AS I REALIZED HE'D ADDRESSED ME BY MY **LAST NAME**--
--A NAME **NO ONE KNOWS!** OR **KNEW,** I SUPPOSE--!
BUT IN THE DISTANT **FUTURE** THEY **KNOW** YOUR NAME, NATASHA ROMANOFF! AS THEY KNOW **OTHER** THINGS, IN A TIME MORE DISTANT THAN EVEN **THE ASSASSIN'S....!**
THERE, FATHER... THE CREATURE CALLED **KLINE.** HE APPEARS TO HAVE GONE **...BERSERK!**
MUST WE **CONTINUE** WITH THE PLAN?
WHY ELSE HAVE WE TRAVELED BACK **THIRTY CENTURIES**-- AND SEARCHED THE WORLD IN ORDER TO **END** HIS MADNESS, IN THE WAY HISTORY TELLS US IT **ENDED?**
ASSASSIN! TURN AND MEET--**YOUR EXECUTIONERS**--!
CHZZZZ-- CHZZZZZZZ-- CKCK-- EXECUTIONERS?

*THEY WERE FIRST SEEN IN SUB-MARINER #42.--TERSE STAN.


AYE! WE ARE FROM A TIME BEYOND YOURS--
--A TIME AFTER THE EXPLOSIVE DEATH OF BAAL!
WE...ARE THE NEW PEOPLE...
...THE FINAL SONS OF MAN!
-BZZZZ--CLKCLKCK--NOOOO--CHZZZzzzzzz
AND SO... IT ENDS!
"FATHER, MAY WE NOW RETURN TO OUR DISTANT TIME? NOW THAT THE FOUL DEED... IS DONE?"
"IN A MOMENT. THERE ARE THOSE WHOSE UNKNOWING HELP WAS CRUCIAL, WHO NOW MUST BE SAVED... FOR THEIRS IS A FAR GREATER DESTINY THAN DEATH...!"
AND, ON A DISTANT MOUNTAINSIDE, TWO COSTUMED FIGURES MATERIALIZE, SPIRITED AWAY FROM THE DESTROYING AVALANCHE...!
DAREDEVIL, WHAT HAPPENED? ONE MOMENT WE WERE ALMOST CAUGHT--
--AND NOW WE'RE SAFE. I KNOW, 'TASHA.
JUST AS YOU MUST KNOW I'M REALLY MATT MURDOCK!
AND HOW COULD SHE NOT?
ACCEPT YOUR ENTWINED FATES, MY FRIENDS--
--LIVE, AND ENJOY THE LIFE--
--THAT HAS BEEN RETURNED TO YOU!
AND THE METALLIC FIGURES VANISH, LEAVING TWO CONFUSED HUMANS ON THE SNOW BELOW...
...LEAVING ALSO...
...THE END!

DAREDEVIL
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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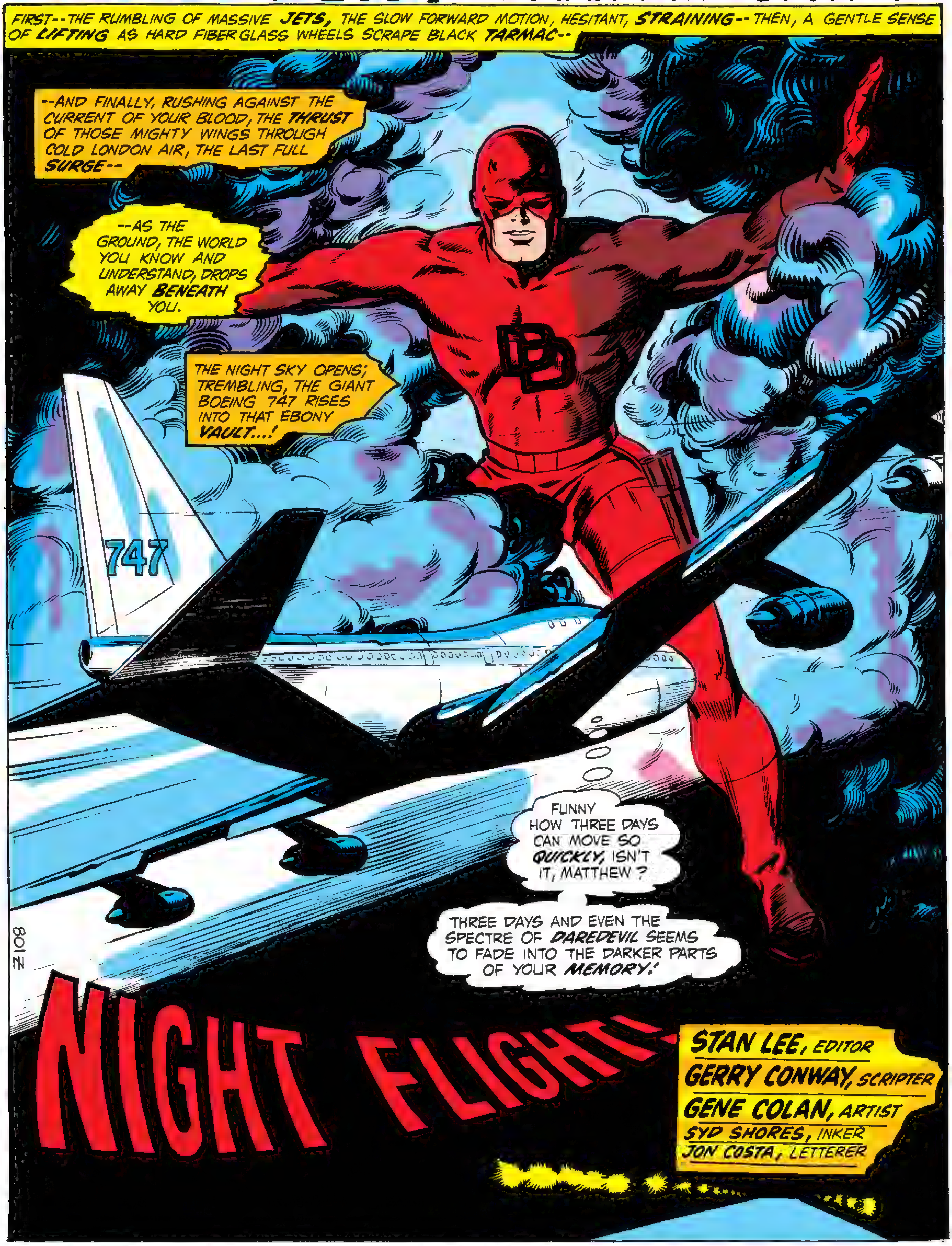
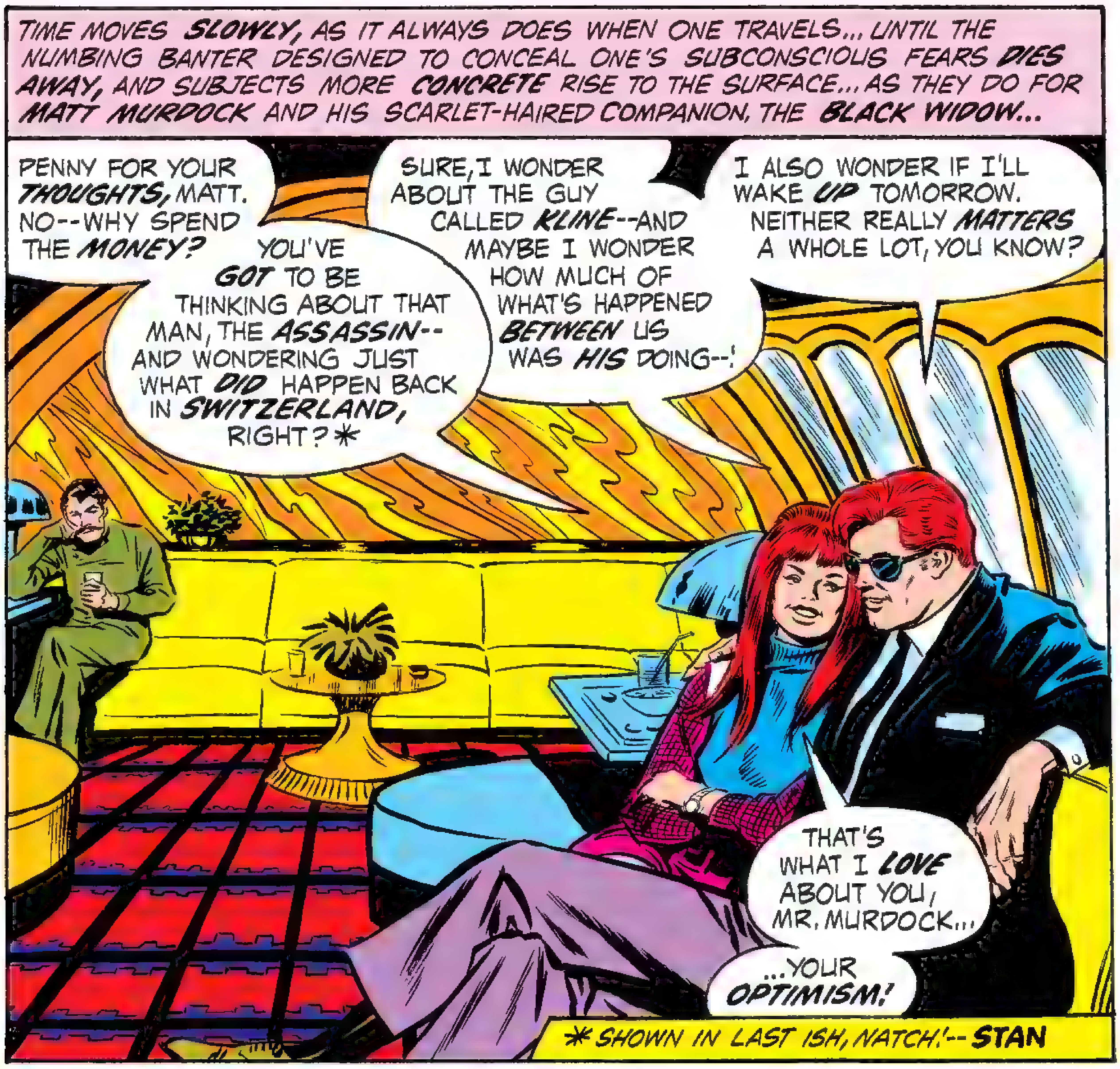
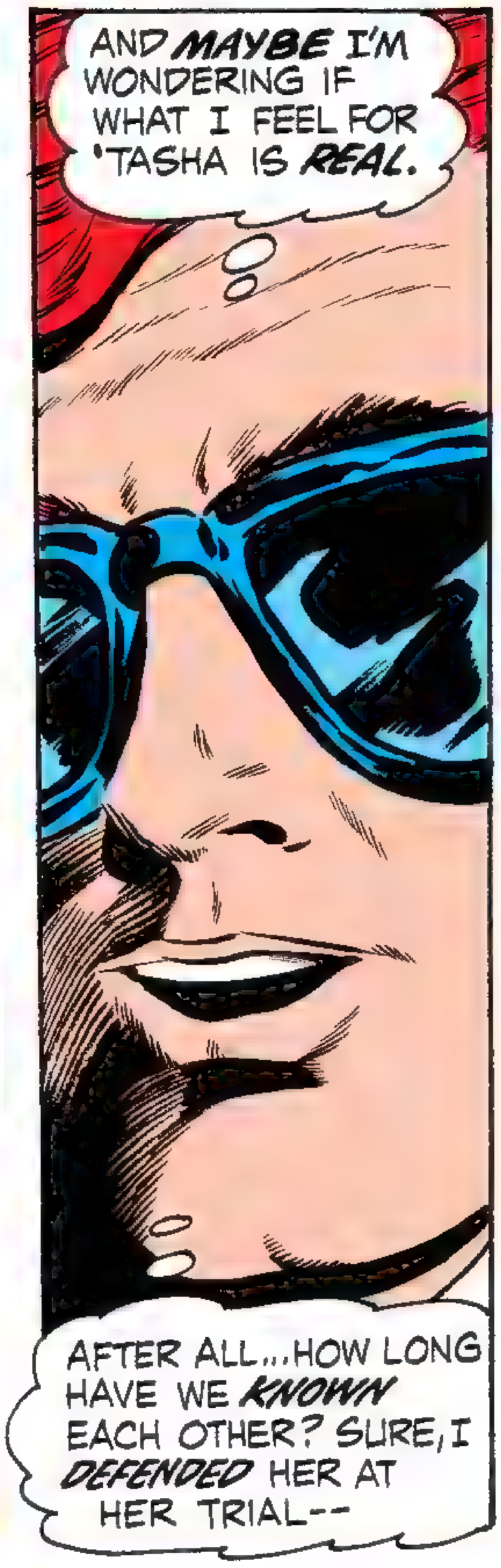
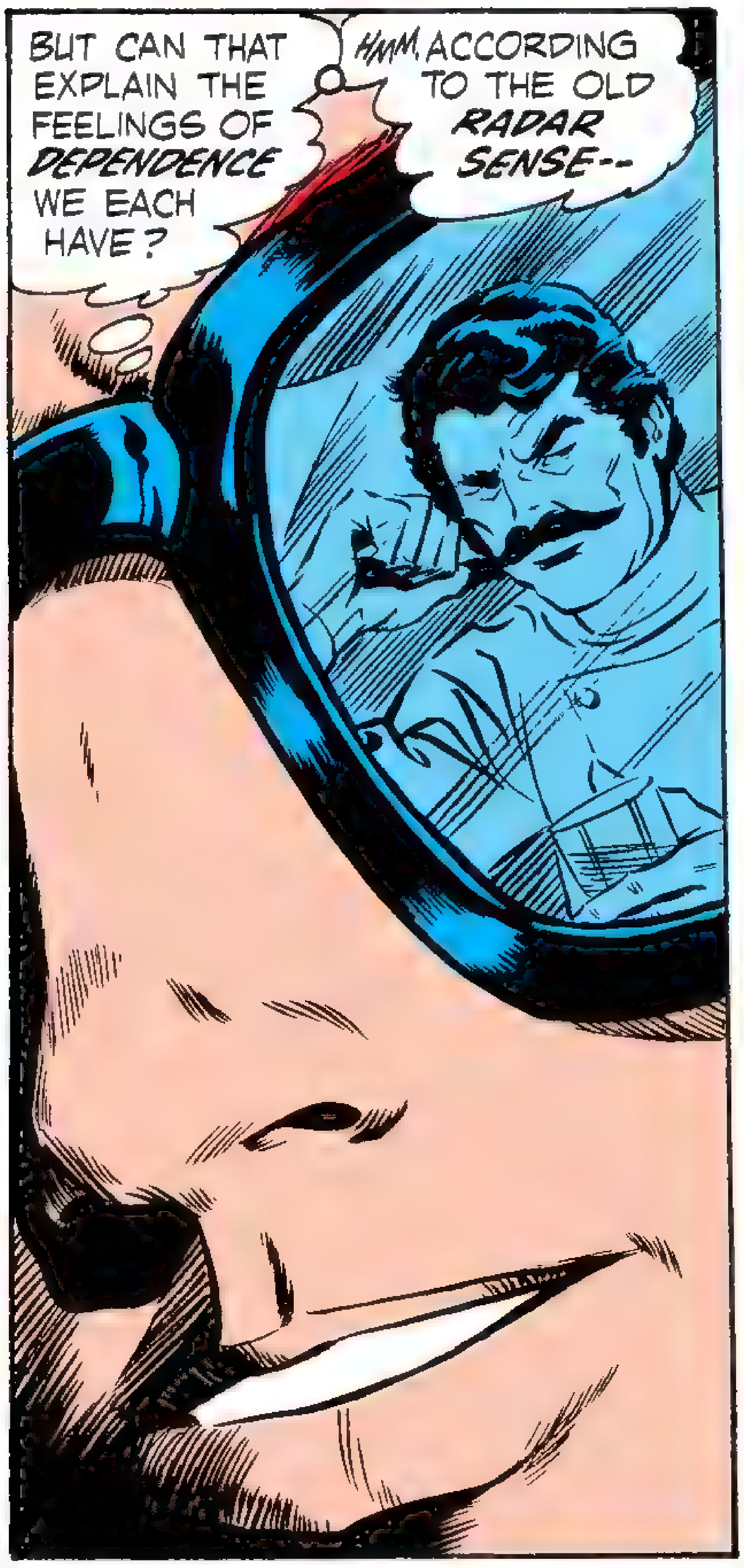
DAREDEVIL
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
FURY--AT 15,000 FEET!!
THE GLADIATOR STRIKES!

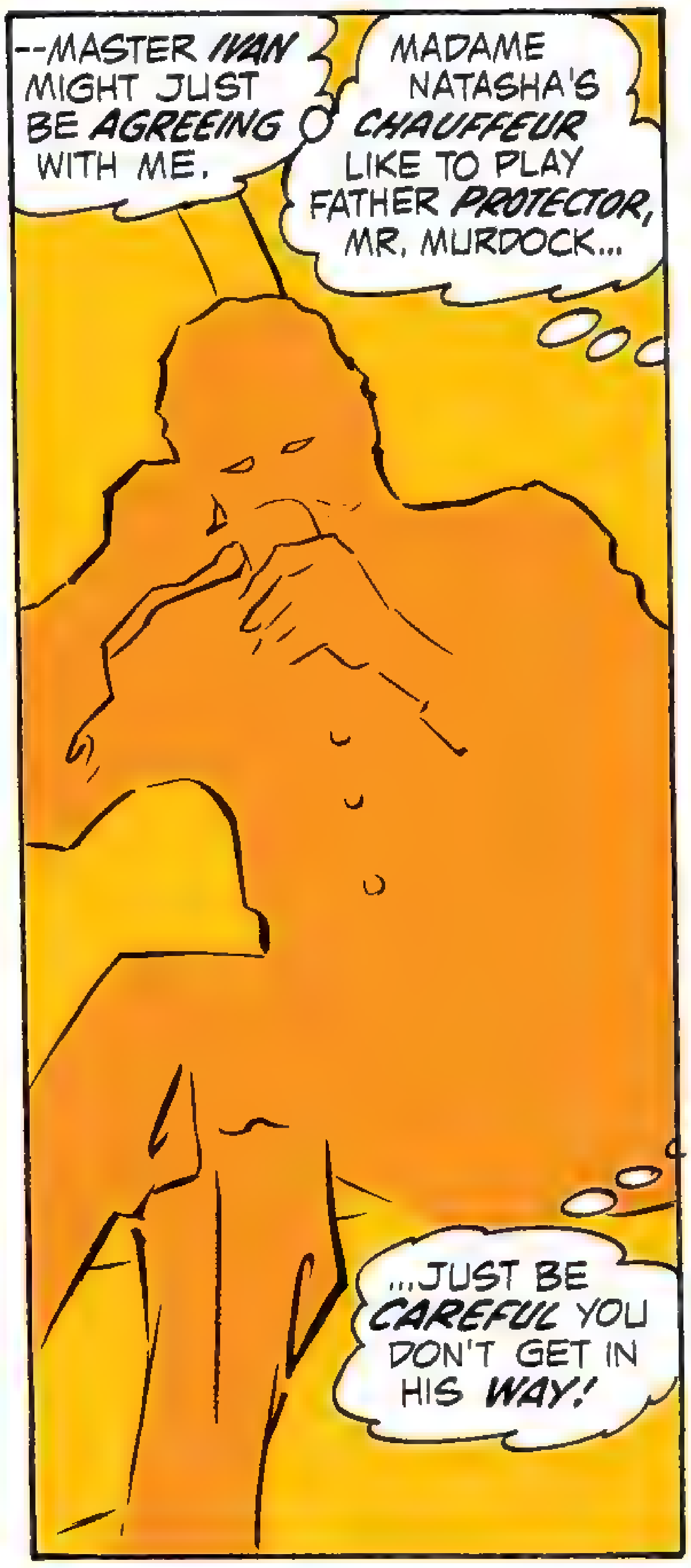
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

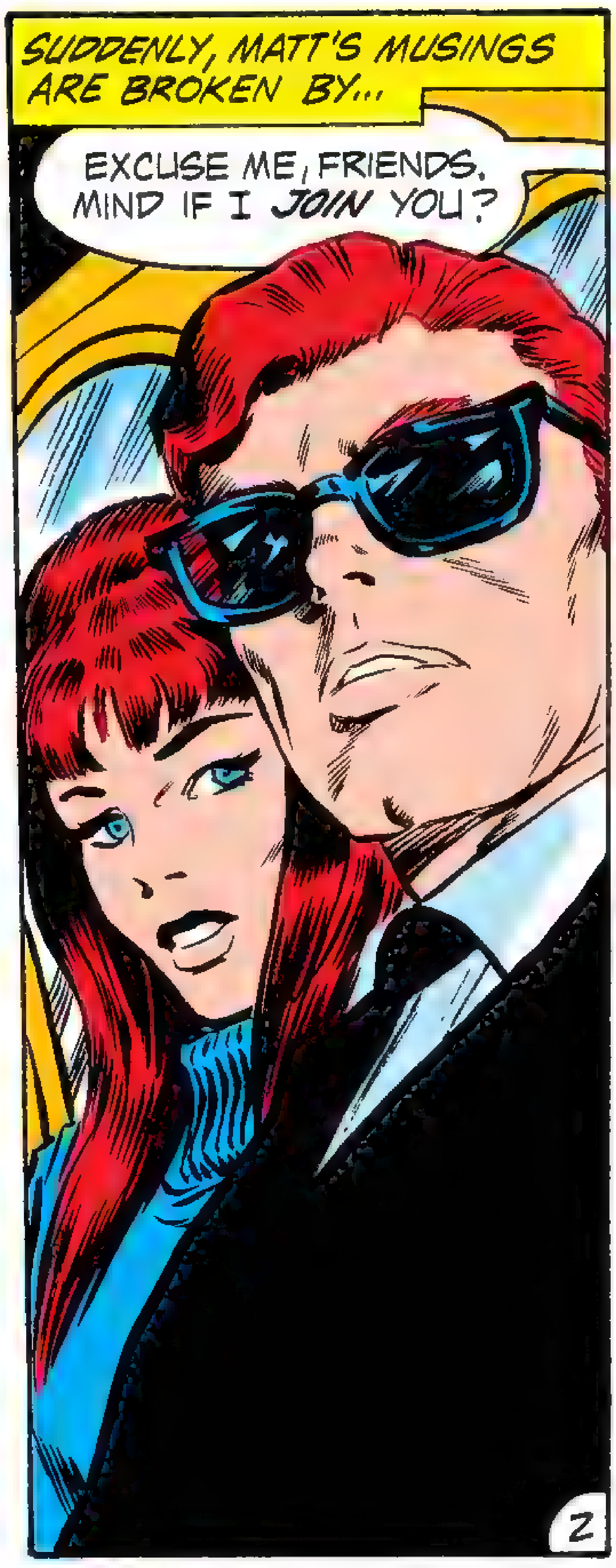

FIRST--THE RUMBLING OF MASSIVE *JETS,* THE SLOW FORWARD MOTION, HESITANT, *STRAINING*-- THEN, A GENTLE SENSE OF *LIFTING* AS HARD FIBERGLASS WHEELS SCRAPE BLACK *TARMAC*--
--AND FINALLY, RUSHING AGAINST THE CURRENT OF YOUR BLOOD, THE *THRUST* OF THOSE MIGHTY WINGS THROUGH COLD LONDON AIR, THE LAST FULL *SURGE*--
--AS THE GROUND, THE WORLD YOU KNOW AND UNDERSTAND, DROPS AWAY *BENEATH* YOU.
THE NIGHT SKY OPENS; TREMBLING, THE GIANT BOEING 747 RISES INTO THAT EBONY *VAULT...!*
747
DD
FUNNY HOW THREE DAYS CAN MOVE SO *QUICKLY,* ISN'T IT, MATTHEW ?
THREE DAYS AND EVEN THE SPECTRE OF *DAREDEVIL* SEEMS TO FADE INTO THE DARKER PARTS OF YOUR *MEMORY!*
NIGHT FLIGHT!
STAN LEE, EDITOR
GERRY CONWAY, SCRIPTER
GENE COLAN, ARTIST
SYD SHORES, INKER
JON COSTA, LETTERER

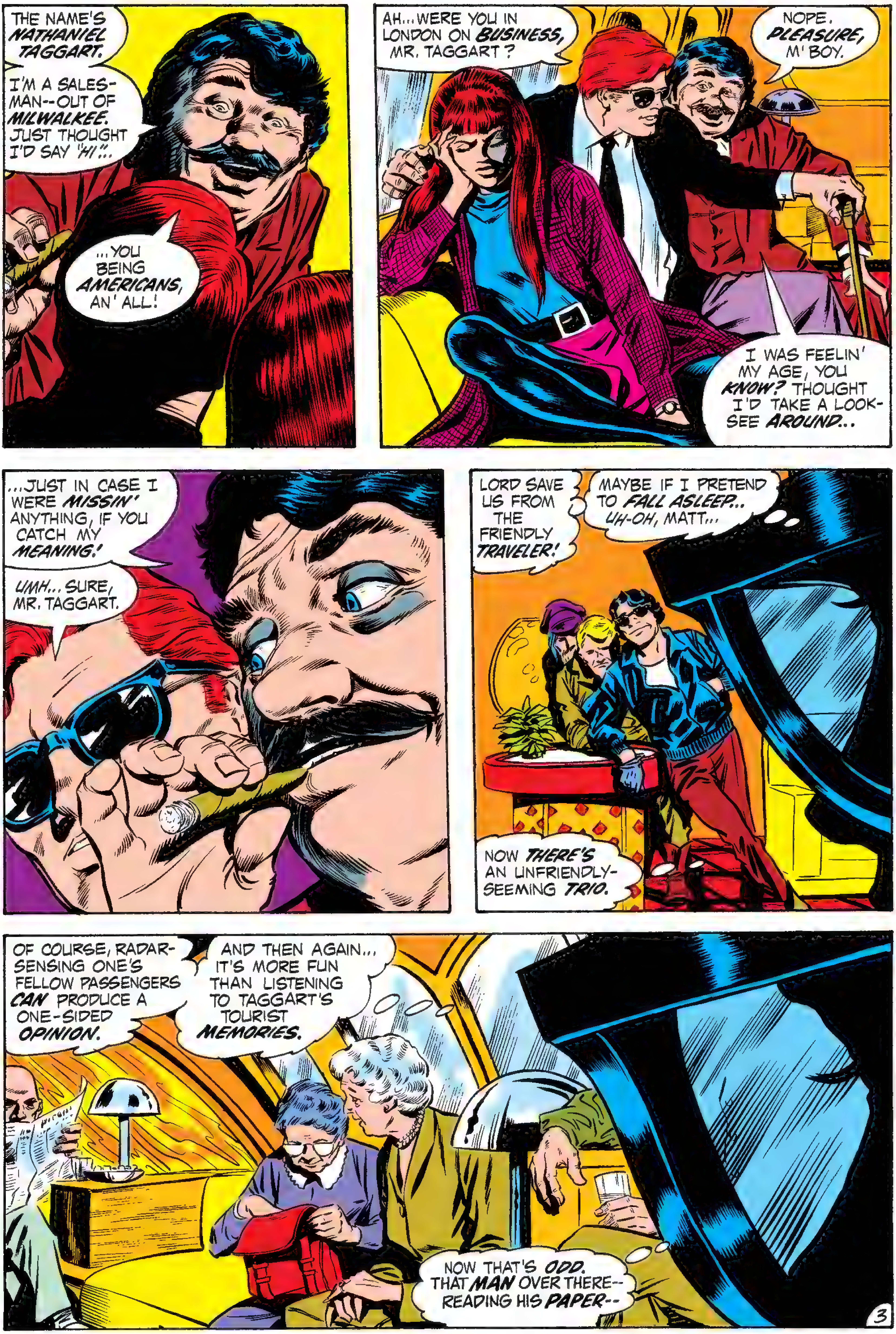

TIME MOVES SLOWLY, AS IT ALWAYS DOES WHEN ONE TRAVELS... UNTIL THE NUMBING BANTER DESIGNED TO CONCEAL ONE'S SUBCONSCIOUS FEARS DIES AWAY, AND SUBJECTS MORE CONCRETE RISE TO THE SURFACE... AS THEY DO FOR MATT MURDOCK AND HIS SCARLET-HAIRED COMPANION, THE BLACK WIDOW...
PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, MATT. NO--WHY SPEND THE MONEY?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE THINKING ABOUT THAT MAN, THE ASSASSIN--AND WONDERING JUST WHAT DID HAPPEN BACK IN SWITZERLAND, RIGHT?*
SURE, I WONDER ABOUT THE GUY CALLED KLINE--AND MAYBE I WONDER HOW MUCH OF WHAT'S HAPPENED BETWEEN US WAS HIS DOING--!
I ALSO WONDER IF I'LL WAKE UP TOMORROW. NEITHER REALLY MATTERS A WHOLE LOT, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU, MR. MURDOCK...
...YOUR OPTIMISM!
*SHOWN IN LAST ISH, NATCH!--STAN

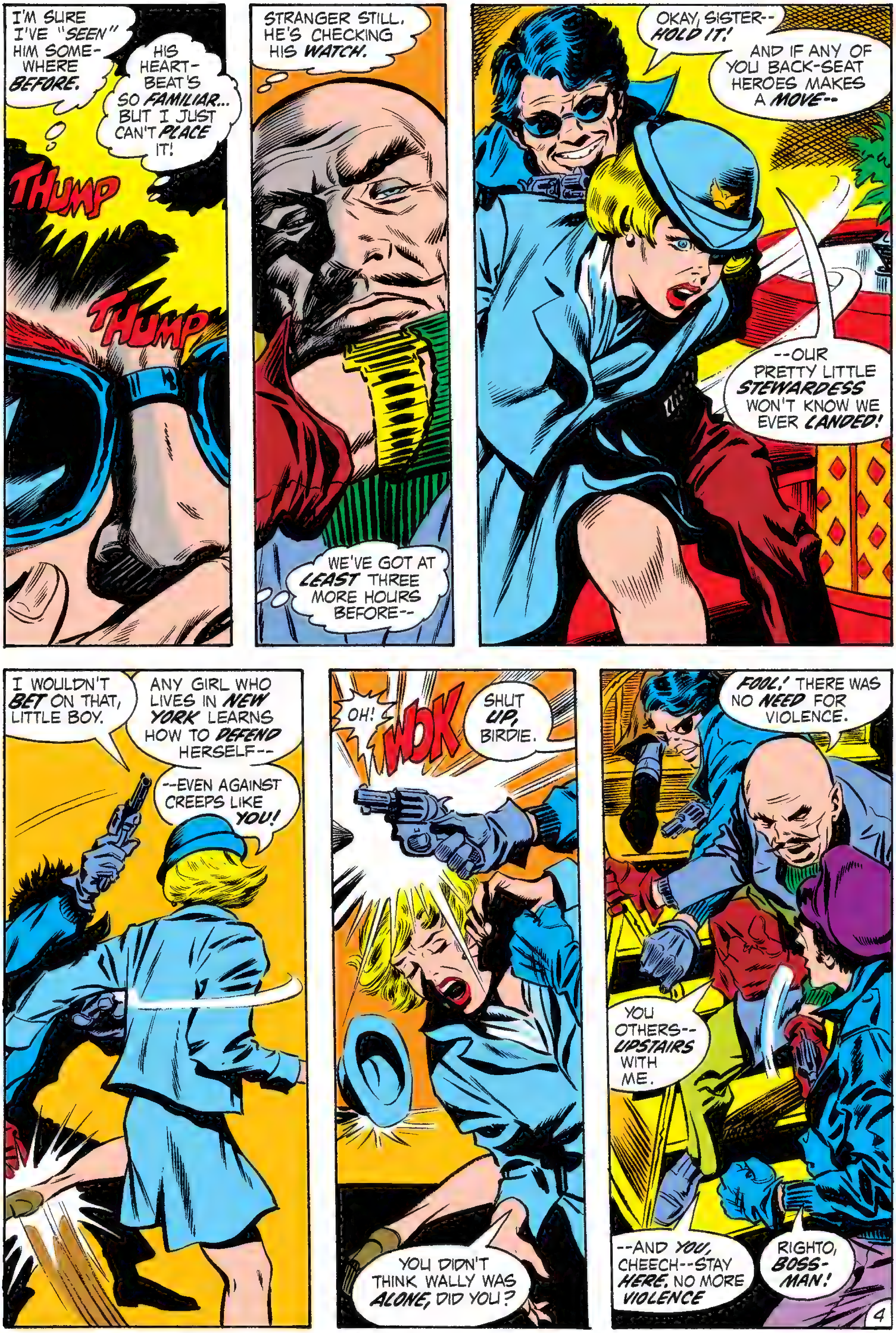

AND MAYBE I'M WONDERING IF WHAT I FEEL FOR 'TASHA IS REAL.
AFTER ALL... HOW LONG HAVE WE KNOWN EACH OTHER? SURE, I DEFENDED HER AT HER TRIAL--

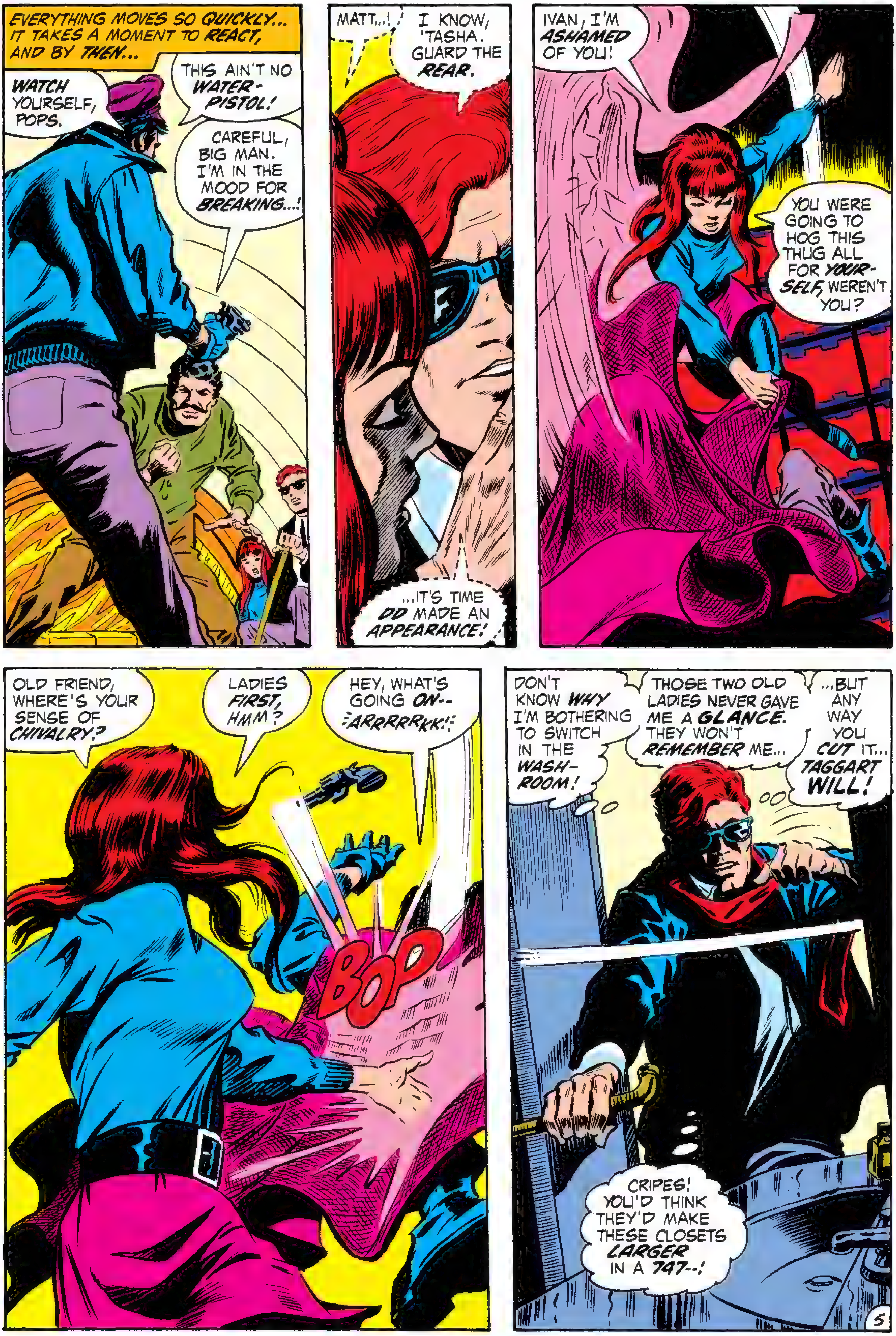

BUT CAN THAT EXPLAIN THE FEELINGS OF DEPENDENCE WE EACH HAVE?
HMM, ACCORDING TO THE OLD RADAR SENSE--

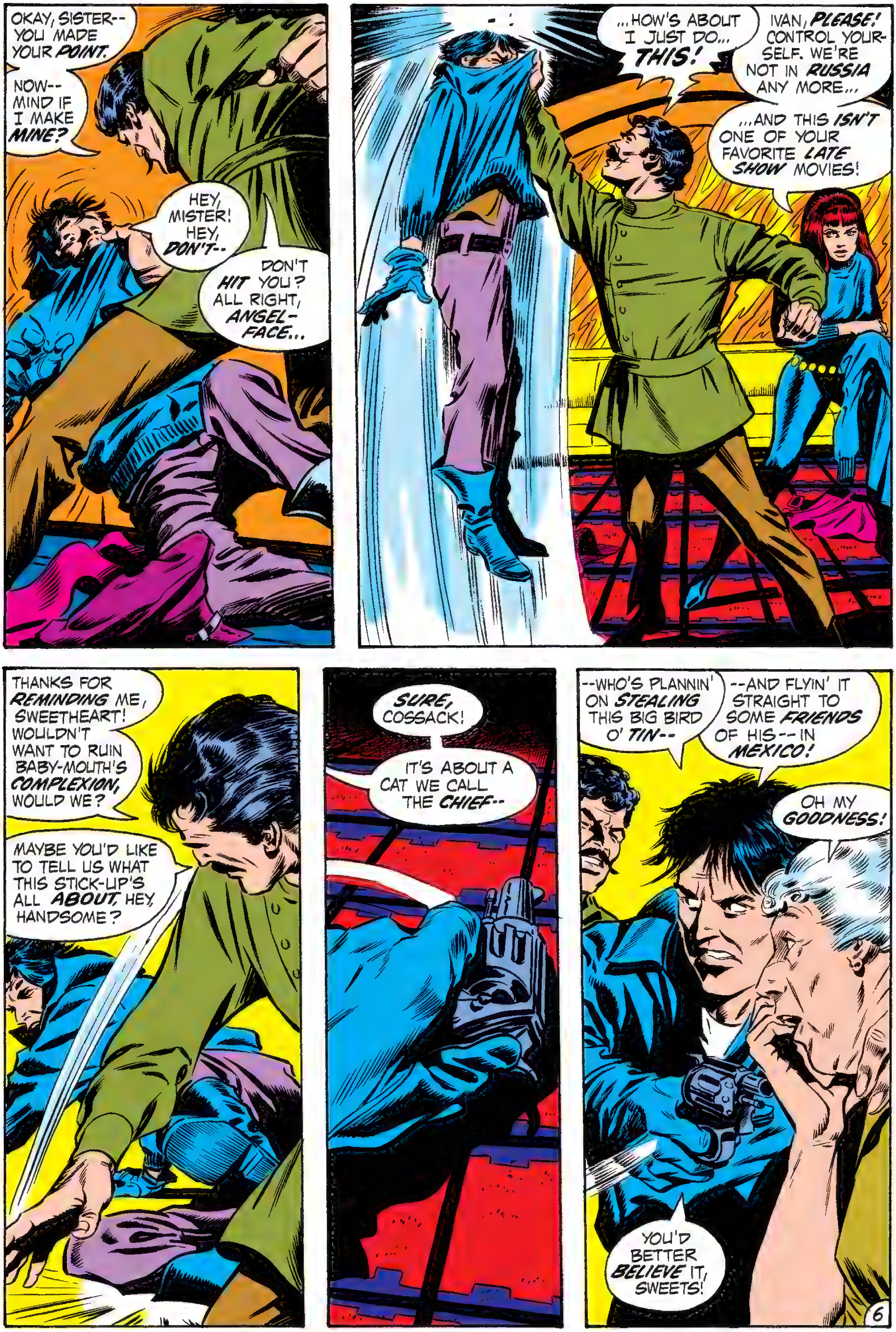

--MASTER IVAN MIGHT JUST BE AGREEING WITH ME.
MADAME NATASHA'S CHAUFFEUR LIKE TO PLAY FATHER PROTECTOR, MR. MURDOCK...
...JUST BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T GET IN HIS WAY!

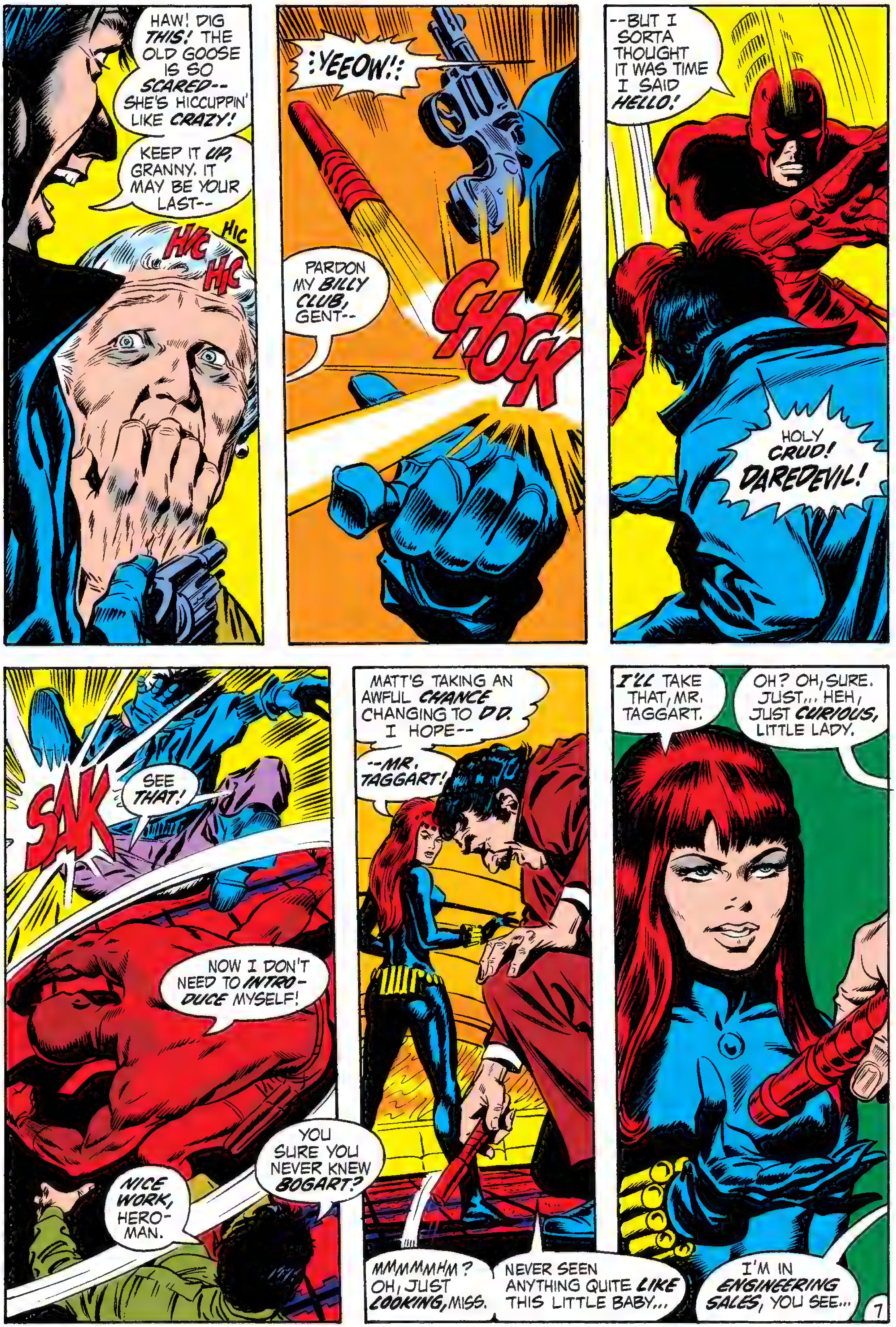

SUDDENLY, MATT'S MUSINGS ARE BROKEN BY...
EXCUSE ME, FRIENDS. MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

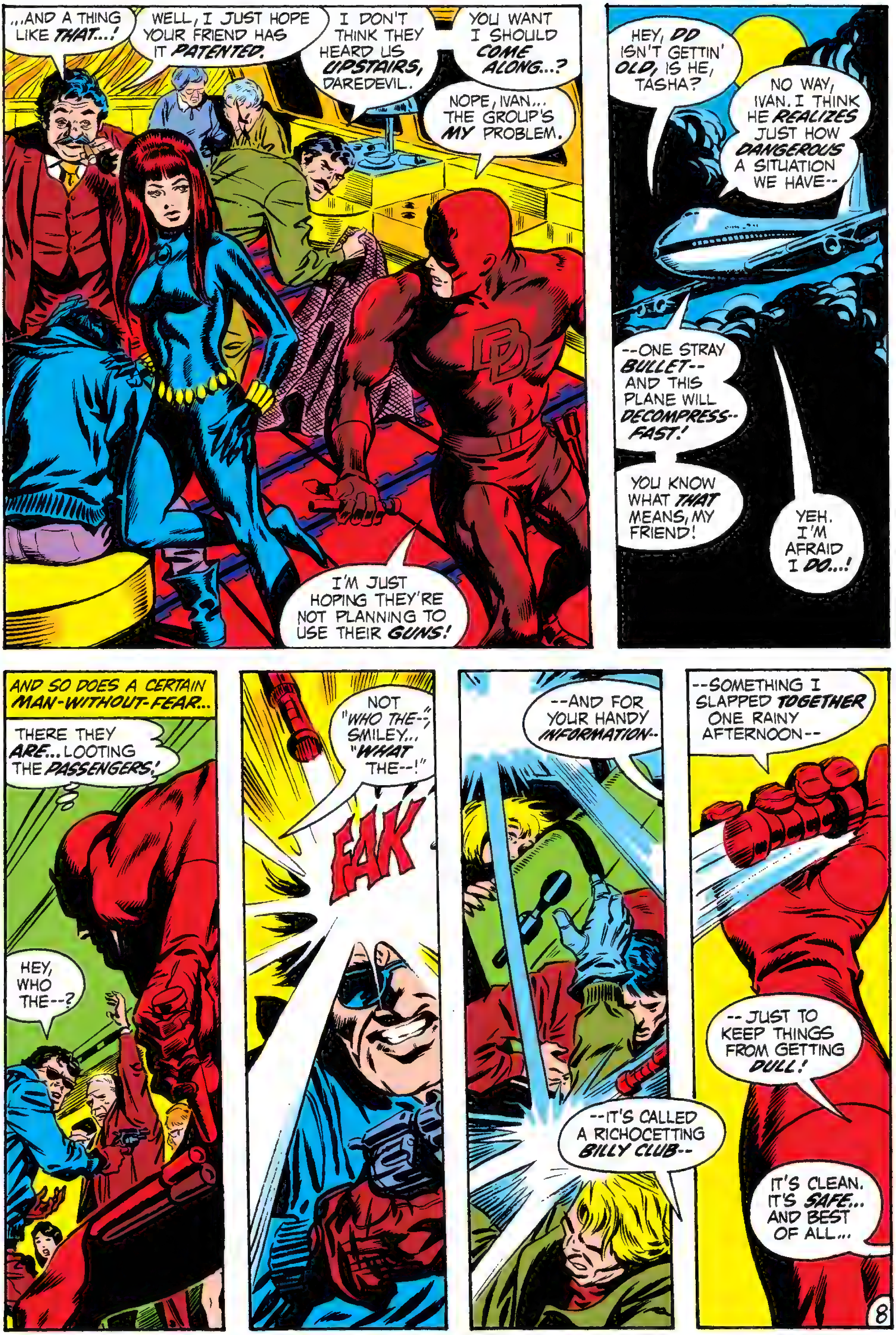

THE NAME'S *NATHANIEL TAGGART.*
I'M A SALESMAN--OUT OF *MILWALKEE.* JUST THOUGHT I'D SAY *"HI"*...
...YOU BEING *AMERICANS,* AN' ALL!
AH...WERE YOU IN LONDON ON *BUSINESS,* MR. TAGGART?
NOPE. *PLEASURE,* M' BOY.
I WAS FEELIN' MY AGE, YOU *KNOW?* THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LOOK-SEE *AROUND..*
...JUST IN CASE I WERE *MISSIN'* ANYTHING, IF YOU CATCH MY *MEANING!*
UMH... SURE, MR. TAGGART.
LORD SAVE US FROM THE FRIENDLY *TRAVELER!*
MAYBE IF I PRETEND TO *FALL ASLEEP..* *UH-OH,* MATT...
NOW *THERE'S* AN UNFRIENDLY-SEEMING *TRIO.*
OF COURSE, RADAR-SENSING ONE'S FELLOW PASSENGERS *CAN* PRODUCE A ONE-SIDED *OPINION.*
AND THEN AGAIN... IT'S MORE FUN THAN LISTENING TO TAGGART'S TOURIST *MEMORIES.*
NOW THAT'S *ODD.* THAT *MAN* OVER THERE-- READING HIS *PAPER*--
3

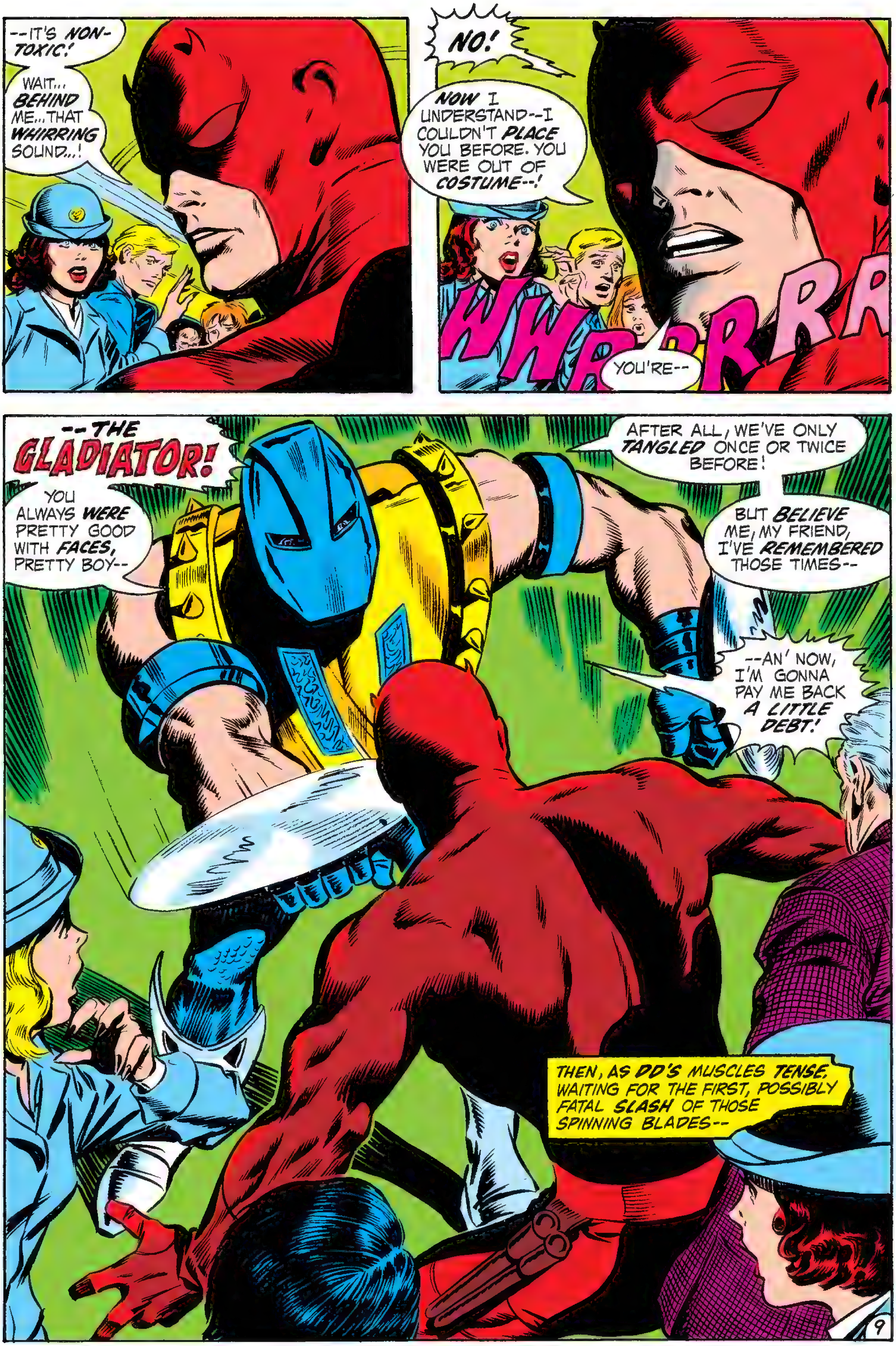

I'M SURE I'VE "SEEN" HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
HIS HEART-BEAT'S SO FAMILIAR... BUT I JUST CAN'T PLACE IT!
THUMP
THUMP
STRANGER STILL, HE'S CHECKING HIS WATCH.
WE'VE GOT AT LEAST THREE MORE HOURS BEFORE--
OKAY, SISTER-- HOLD IT!
AND IF ANY OF YOU BACK-SEAT HEROES MAKES A MOVE--
--OUR PRETTY LITTLE STEWARDESS WON'T KNOW WE EVER LANDED!
I WOULDN'T BET ON THAT, LITTLE BOY.
ANY GIRL WHO LIVES IN NEW YORK LEARNS HOW TO DEFEND HERSELF--
--EVEN AGAINST CREEPS LIKE YOU!
OH!
WOK
SHUT UP, BIRDIE.
YOU DIDN'T THINK WALLY WAS ALONE, DID YOU?
FOOL! THERE WAS NO NEED FOR VIOLENCE.
YOU OTHERS-- UPSTAIRS WITH ME.
--AND YOU, CHEECH--STAY HERE. NO MORE VIOLENCE
RIGHTO, BOSS-MAN!

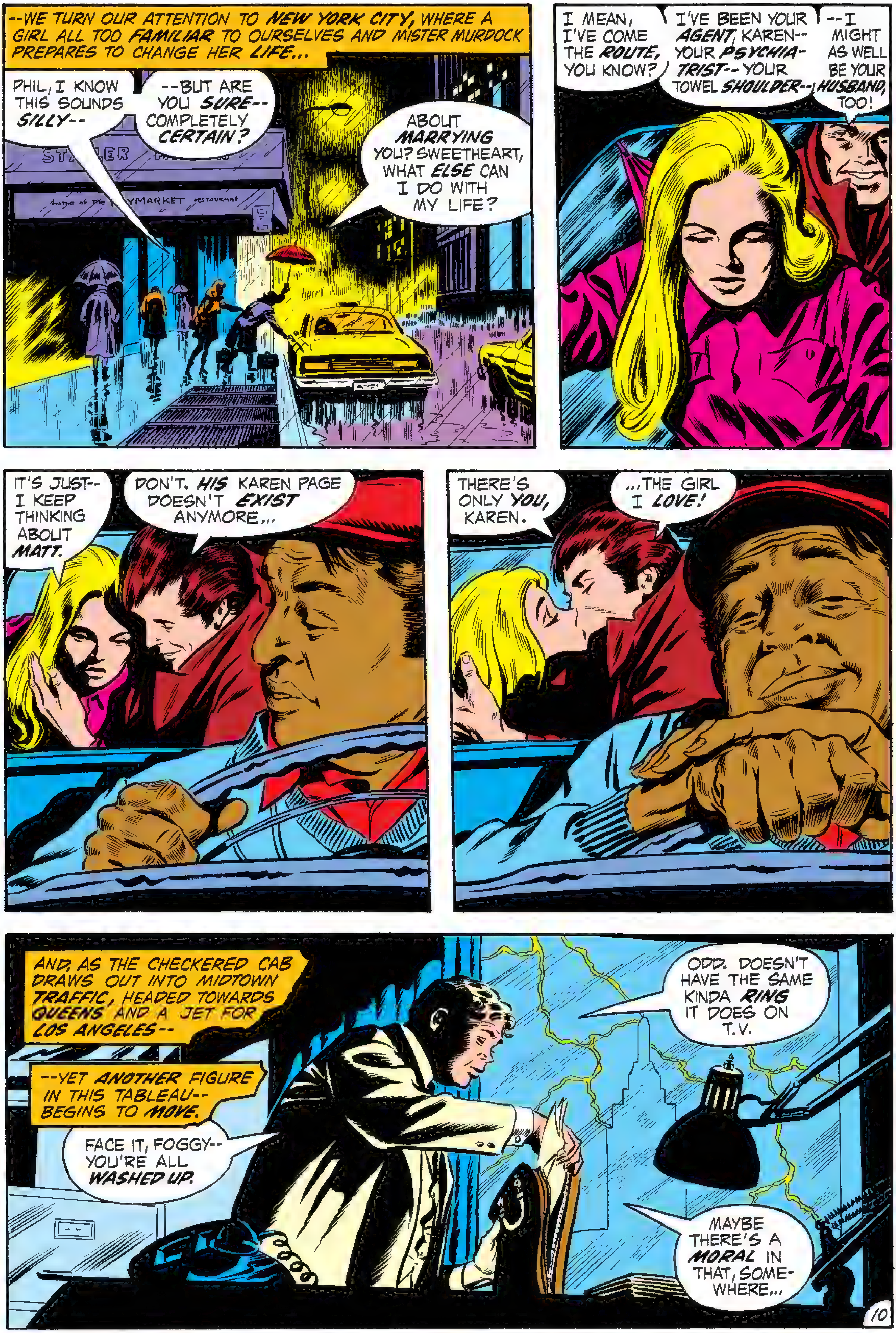

EVERYTHING MOVES SO QUICKLY... IT TAKES A MOMENT TO REACT, AND BY THEN...
WATCH YOURSELF, POPS.
THIS AIN'T NO WATER-PISTOL!
CAREFUL, BIG MAN. I'M IN THE MOOD FOR BREAKING...!
MATT...!
I KNOW, 'TASHA. GUARD THE REAR.
...IT'S TIME DD MADE AN APPEARANCE!
IVAN, I'M ASHAMED OF YOU!
YOU WERE GOING TO HOG THIS THUG ALL FOR YOURSELF, WEREN'T YOU?
OLD FRIEND, WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF CHIVALRY?
LADIES FIRST, HMM?
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON-- ARRRRRKK!
BOP
DON'T KNOW WHY I'M BOTHERING TO SWITCH IN THE WASH-ROOM!
THOSE TWO OLD LADIES NEVER GAVE ME A GLANCE. THEY WON'T REMEMBER ME...
...BUT ANY WAY YOU CUT IT... TAGGART WILL!
CRIPES! YOU'D THINK THEY'D MAKE THESE CLOSETS LARGER IN A 747--!

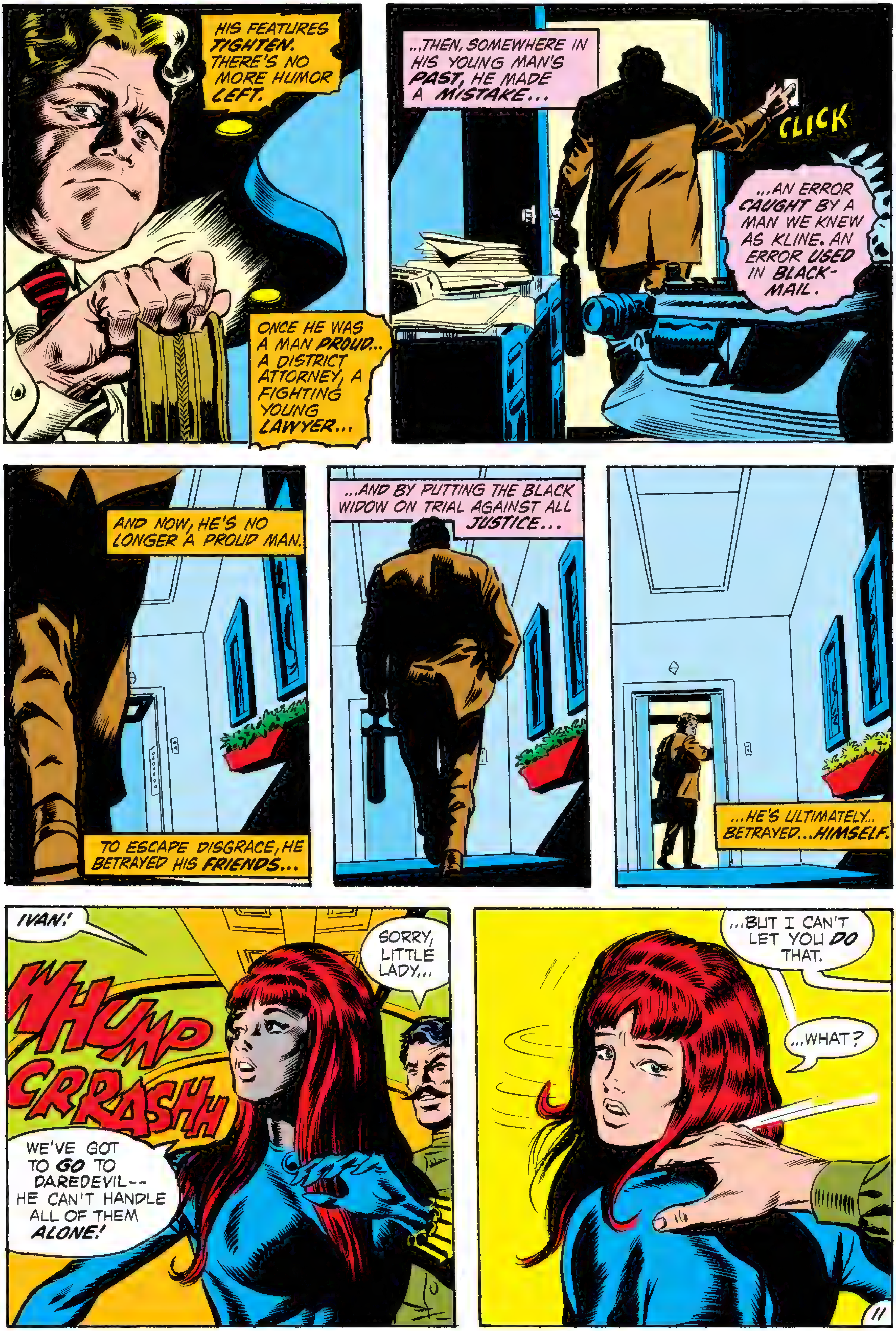

OKAY, SISTER--YOU MADE YOUR *POINT*.
NOW--MIND IF I MAKE *MINE?*
HEY, MISTER! HEY, *DON'T--*
DON'T *HIT* YOU? ALL RIGHT, *ANGEL-FACE...*
...HOW'S ABOUT I JUST DO... *THIS!*
IVAN, *PLEASE!* CONTROL YOURSELF. WE'RE NOT IN *RUSSIA* ANY MORE...
...AND THIS *ISN'T* ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE *LATE SHOW* MOVIES!
THANKS FOR *REMINDING* ME, SWEETHEART! WOULDN'T WANT TO RUIN BABY-MOUTH'S *COMPLEXION,* WOULD WE?
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO TELL US WHAT THIS STICK-UP'S ALL *ABOUT,* HEY, HANDSOME?
SURE, COSSACK!
IT'S ABOUT A CAT WE CALL THE *CHIEF--*
--WHO'S PLANNIN' ON *STEALING* THIS BIG BIRD O' *TIN--*
--AND FLYIN' IT STRAIGHT TO SOME *FRIENDS* OF HIS--IN *MEXICO!*
OH MY *GOODNESS!*
YOU'D BETTER *BELIEVE* IT, SWEETS!

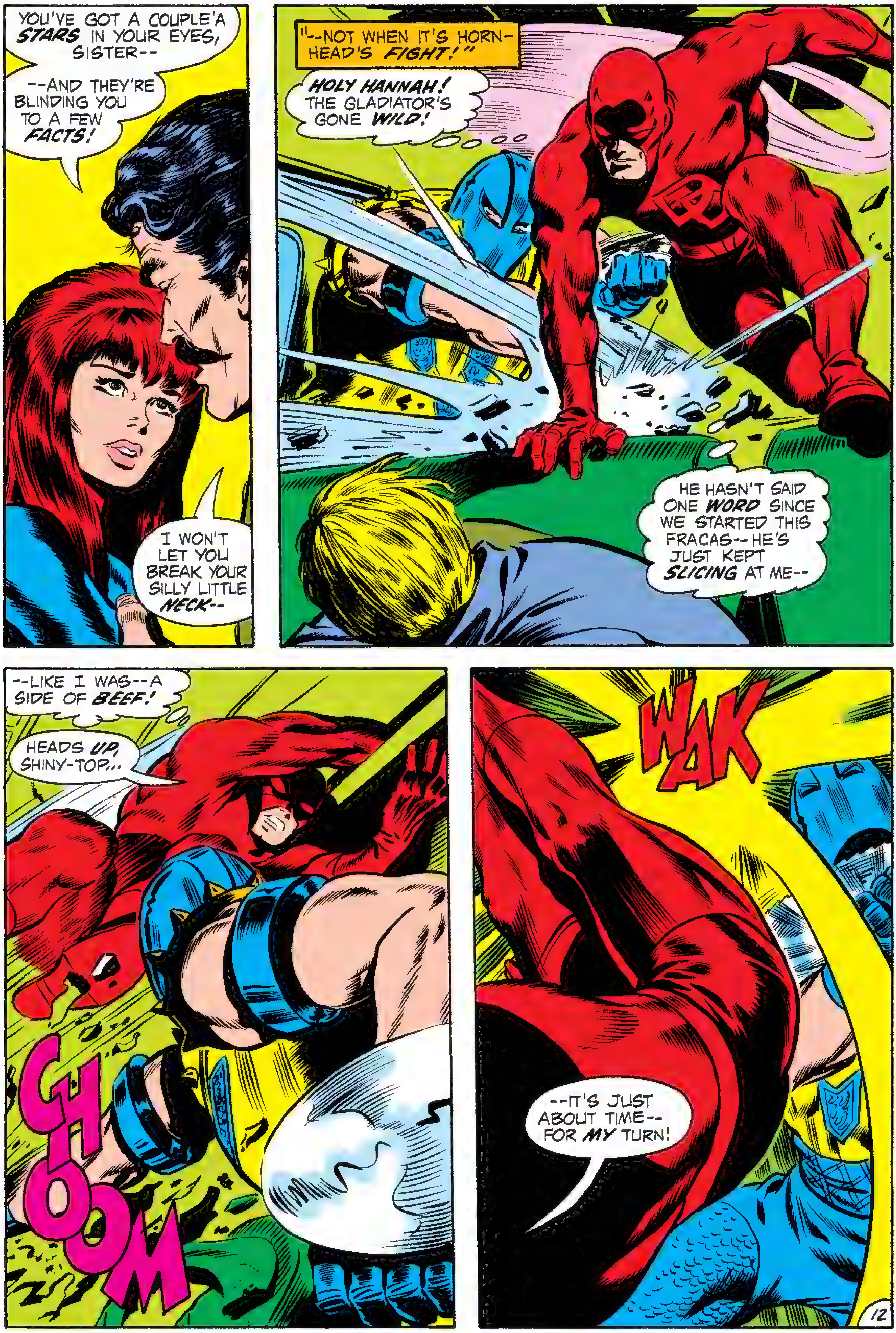

HAW! DIG *THIS!* THE OLD GOOSE IS SO *SCARED--* SHE'S HICCUPPIN' LIKE *CRAZY!*
KEEP IT *UP,* GRANNY. IT MAY BE YOUR LAST--
HIC
HIC
HIC
:YEEOW!:
PARDON MY *BILLY CLUB,* GENT--
CHOCK
--BUT I SORTA THOUGHT IT WAS TIME I SAID *HELLO!*
HOLY *CRUD!* *DAREDEVIL!*
SAK
SEE *THAT!*
NOW I DON'T NEED TO *INTRODUCE* MYSELF!
YOU SURE YOU NEVER KNEW *BOGART?*
NICE WORK, HERO-MAN.
MATT'S TAKING AN AWFUL *CHANCE* CHANGING TO *D.D.* I HOPE--
--MR. TAGGART!
MMMMMHM? OH, JUST *LOOKING,* MISS.
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE *LIKE* THIS LITTLE BABY...
I'LL TAKE THAT, MR. TAGGART.
OH? OH, SURE. JUST... HEH, JUST *CURIOUS,* LITTLE LADY.
I'M IN *ENGINEERING SALES,* YOU SEE...

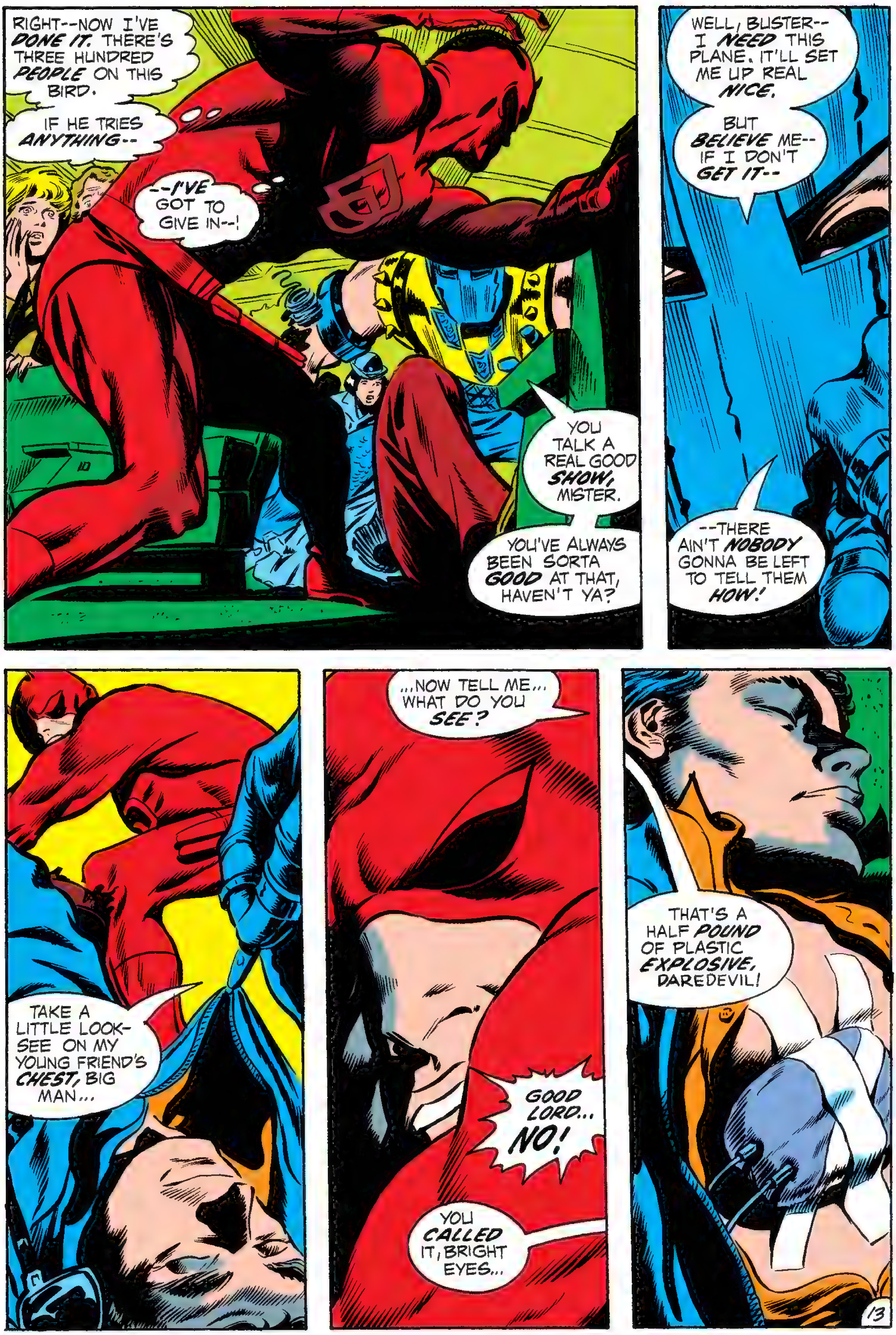

...AND A THING LIKE *THAT*...!
WELL, I JUST HOPE YOUR FRIEND HAS IT *PATENTED.*
I DON'T THINK THEY HEARD US *UPSTAIRS,* DAREDEVIL.
YOU WANT I SHOULD *COME ALONG*...?
NOPE, IVAN... THE GROUP'S *MY* PROBLEM.
I'M JUST HOPING THEY'RE NOT PLANNING TO USE THEIR *GUNS!*
HEY, *DD* ISN'T GETTIN' *OLD,* IS HE, TASHA?
NO WAY, IVAN. I THINK HE *REALIZES* JUST HOW *DANGEROUS* A SITUATION WE HAVE--
--ONE STRAY *BULLET*-- AND THIS PLANE WILL *DECOMPRESS*-- *FAST!*
YOU KNOW WHAT *THAT* MEANS, MY FRIEND!
YEH. I'M AFRAID I *DO*...!
AND SO DOES A CERTAIN *MAN-WITHOUT-FEAR*...
THERE THEY *ARE*... LOOTING THE *PASSENGERS!*
HEY, WHO THE--?
NOT "WHO THE--," SMILEY... "*WHAT* THE--!"
FAK
--AND FOR YOUR HANDY *INFORMATION*--
--IT'S CALLED A RICHOCETTING *BILLY CLUB*--
--SOMETHING I SLAPPED *TOGETHER* ONE RAINY AFTERNOON--
-- JUST TO KEEP THINGS FROM GETTING *DULL!*
IT'S CLEAN. IT'S *SAFE*... AND BEST OF ALL...

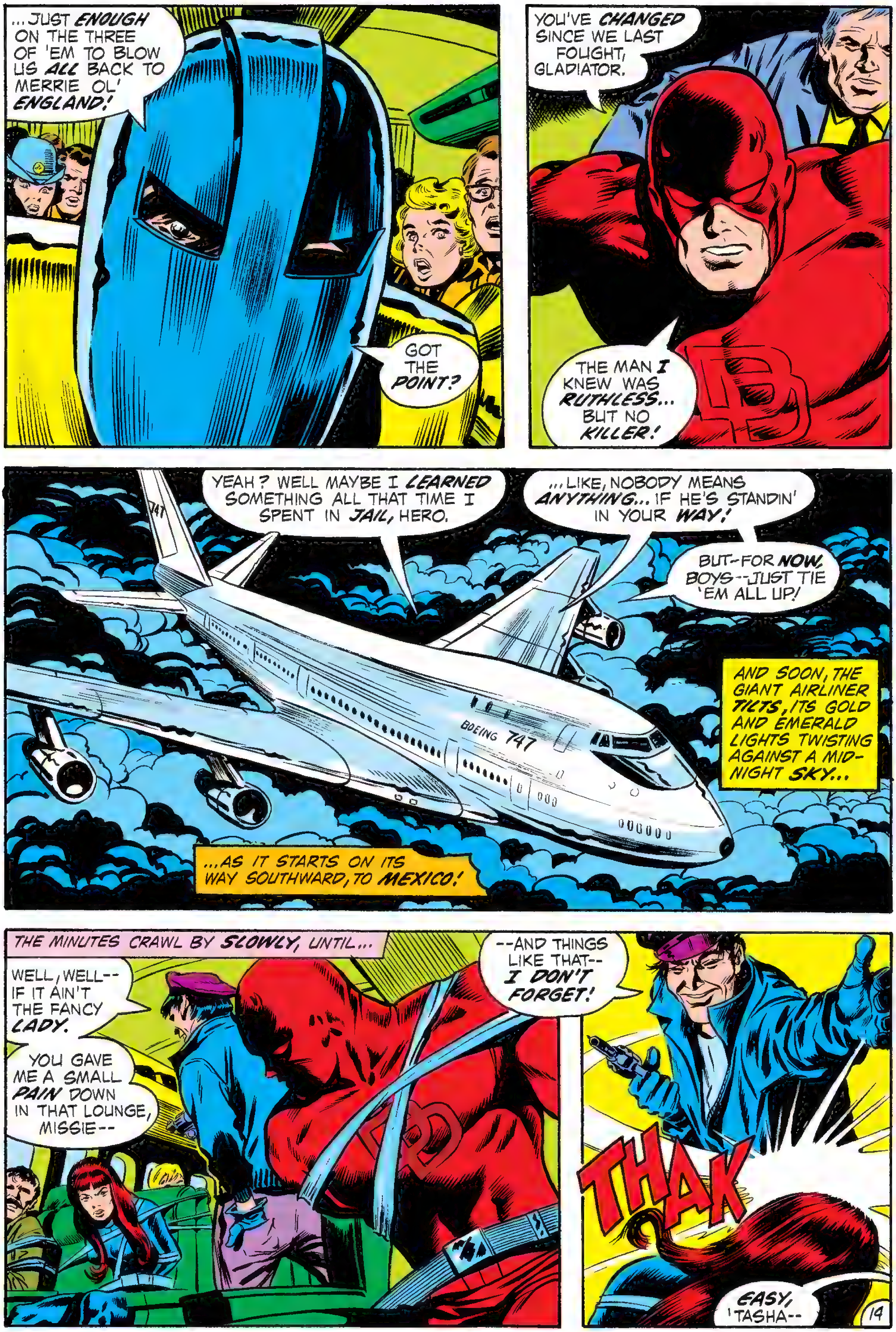

--IT'S *NON-TOXIC!*
WAIT... *BEHIND* ME... THAT *WHIRRING* SOUND...!
NO!
NOW I UNDERSTAND--I COULDN'T *PLACE* YOU BEFORE. YOU WERE OUT OF *COSTUME*--!
WWRRRRR
YOU'RE--
--THE *GLADIATOR!*
YOU ALWAYS *WERE* PRETTY GOOD WITH *FACES,* PRETTY BOY--
AFTER ALL, WE'VE ONLY *TANGLED* ONCE OR TWICE BEFORE!
BUT *BELIEVE* ME, MY FRIEND, I'VE *REMEMBERED* THOSE TIMES--
--AN' NOW, I'M GONNA PAY ME BACK *A LITTLE DEBT!*
THEN, AS *DD'S* MUSCLES *TENSE,* WAITING FOR THE FIRST, POSSIBLY FATAL *SLASH* OF THOSE SPINNING BLADES--

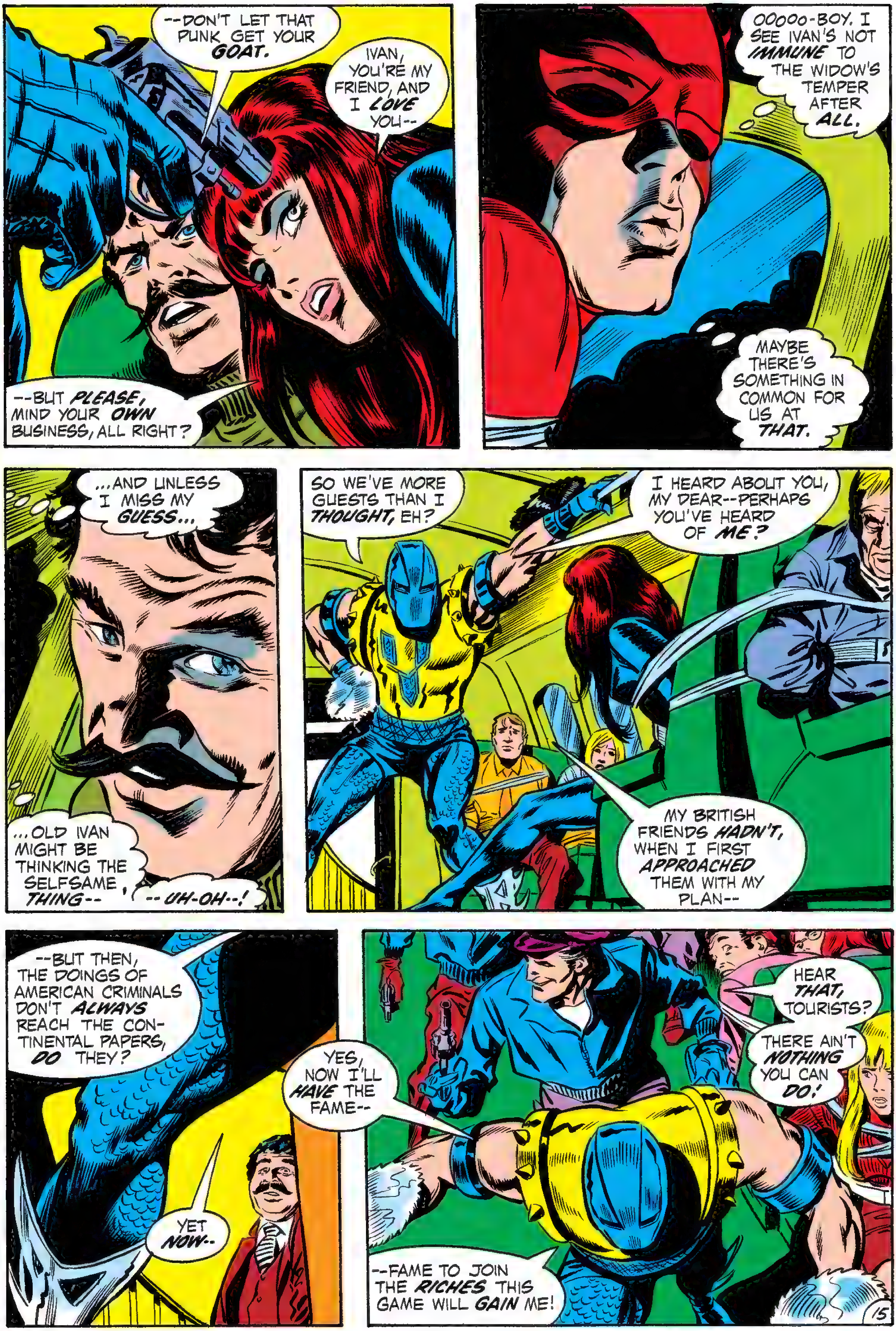

--WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO NEW YORK CITY, WHERE A GIRL ALL TOO FAMILIAR TO OURSELVES AND MISTER MURDOCK PREPARES TO CHANGE HER LIFE...
PHIL, I KNOW THIS SOUNDS SILLY--
--BUT ARE YOU SURE-- COMPLETELY CERTAIN?
ABOUT MARRYING YOU? SWEETHEART, WHAT ELSE CAN I DO WITH MY LIFE?
STATLER
home of the HAYMARKET restaurant
I MEAN, I'VE COME THE ROUTE, YOU KNOW?
I'VE BEEN YOUR AGENT, KAREN-- YOUR PSYCHIATRIST-- YOUR TOWEL SHOULDER--
--I MIGHT AS WELL BE YOUR HUSBAND, TOO!
IT'S JUST-- I KEEP THINKING ABOUT MATT.
DON'T. HIS KAREN PAGE DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE...
THERE'S ONLY YOU, KAREN.
...THE GIRL I LOVE!
AND, AS THE CHECKERED CAB DRAWS OUT INTO MIDTOWN TRAFFIC, HEADED TOWARDS QUEENS AND A JET FOR LOS ANGELES--
--YET ANOTHER FIGURE IN THIS TABLEAU-- BEGINS TO MOVE.
FACE IT, FOGGY-- YOU'RE ALL WASHED UP.
ODD. DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME KINDA RING IT DOES ON T.V.
MAYBE THERE'S A MORAL IN THAT, SOMEWHERE...

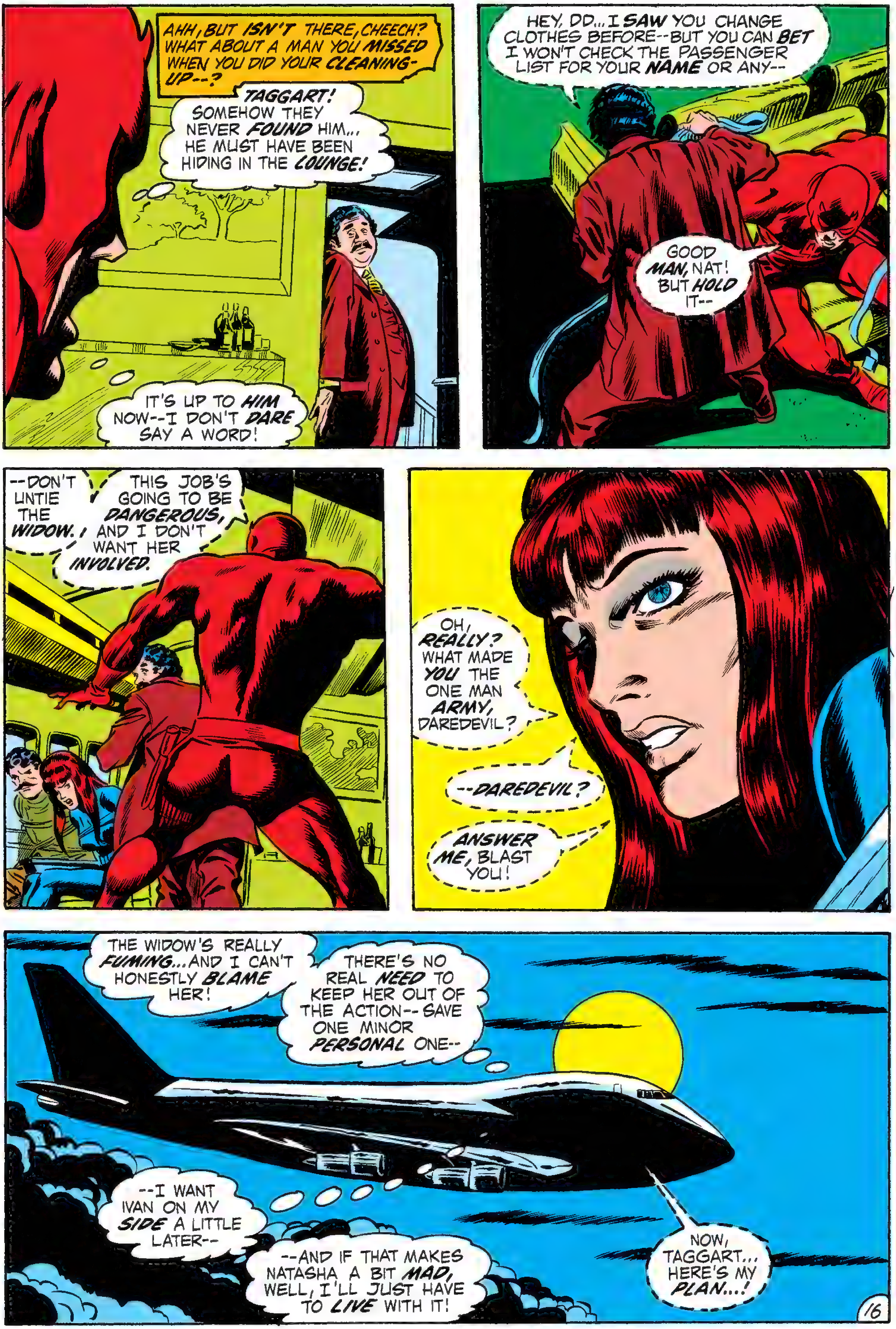

HIS FEATURES TIGHTEN. THERE'S NO MORE HUMOR LEFT.
ONCE HE WAS A MAN PROUD... A DISTRICT ATTORNEY, A FIGHTING YOUNG LAWYER...
...THEN, SOMEWHERE IN HIS YOUNG MAN'S PAST, HE MADE A MISTAKE...
CLICK
...AN ERROR CAUGHT BY A MAN WE KNEW AS KLINE. AN ERROR USED IN BLACK-MAIL.
AND NOW, HE'S NO LONGER A PROUD MAN.
TO ESCAPE DISGRACE, HE BETRAYED HIS FRIENDS...
...AND BY PUTTING THE BLACK WIDOW ON TRIAL AGAINST ALL JUSTICE...
...HE'S ULTIMATELY... BETRAYED... HIMSELF.
IVAN!
WHUMP
CRRASHH
SORRY, LITTLE LADY...
WE'VE GOT TO GO TO DAREDEVIL-- HE CAN'T HANDLE ALL OF THEM ALONE!
...BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.
...WHAT?

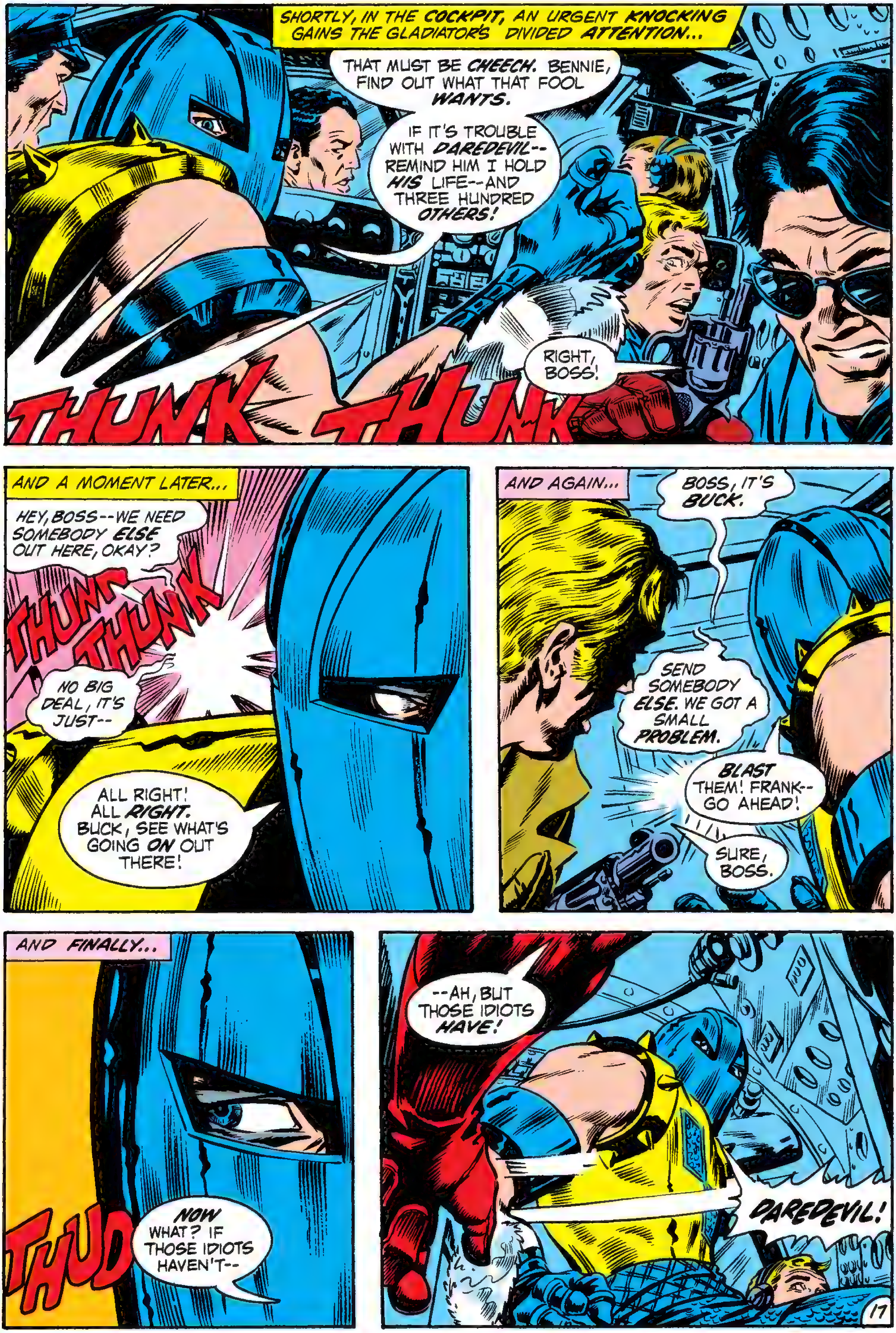

YOU'VE GOT A COUPLE'A *STARS* IN YOUR EYES, SISTER--
--AND THEY'RE BLINDING YOU TO A FEW *FACTS!*
I WON'T LET YOU BREAK YOUR SILLY LITTLE *NECK*--
"--NOT WHEN IT'S HORN-HEAD'S *FIGHT!*"
HOLY HANNAH! THE GLADIATOR'S GONE *WILD!*
HE HASN'T SAID ONE *WORD* SINCE WE STARTED THIS FRACAS--HE'S JUST KEPT *SLICING* AT ME--
--LIKE I WAS--A SIDE OF *BEEF!*
HEADS *UP,* SHINY-TOP...
CHOOM
WAK
--IT'S JUST ABOUT TIME--FOR *MY* TURN!

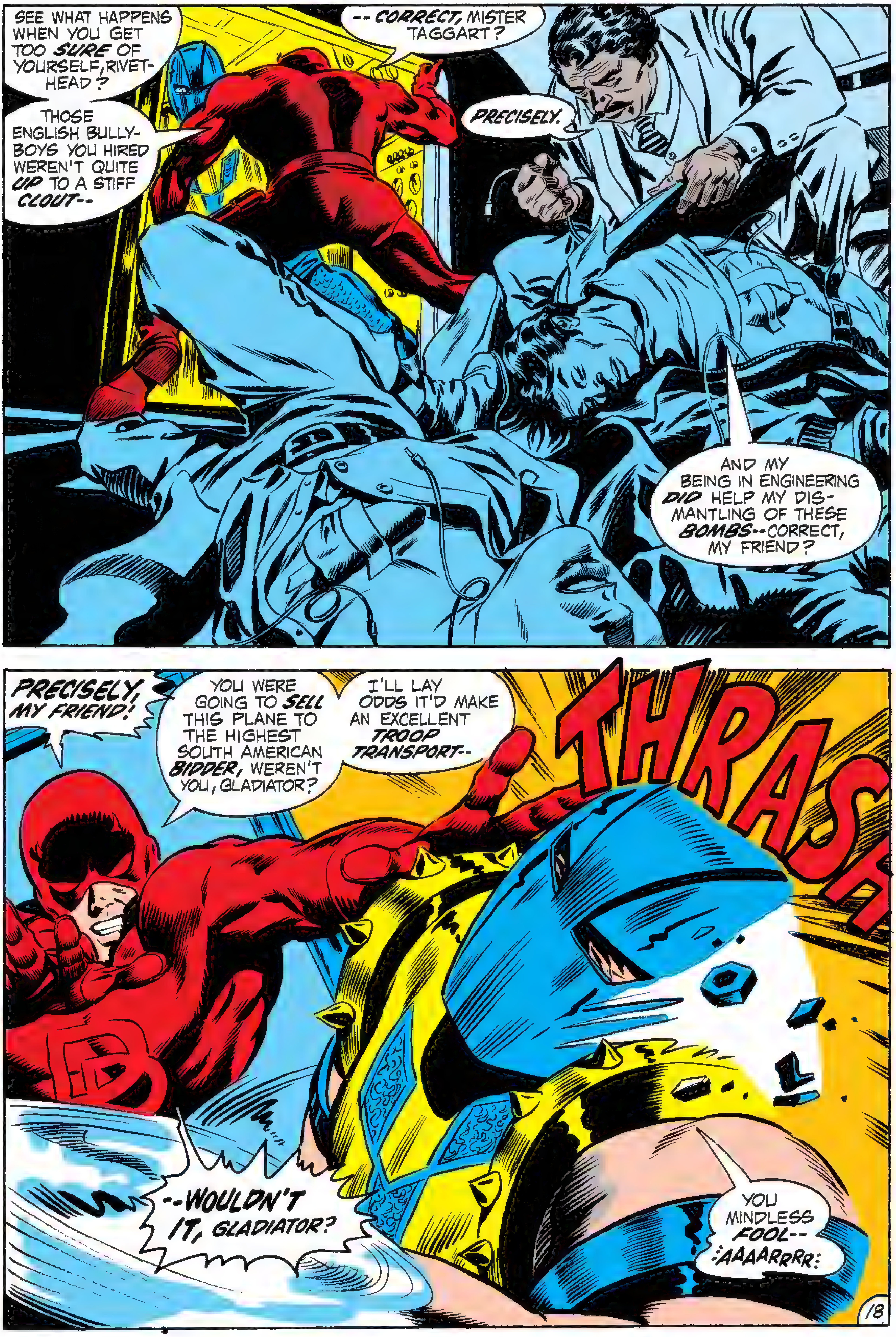

RIGHT--NOW I'VE *DONE IT.* THERE'S THREE HUNDRED *PEOPLE* ON THIS BIRD.
IF HE TRIES *ANYTHING*--
--*I'VE* GOT TO GIVE IN--!
YOU TALK A REAL GOOD *SHOW,* MISTER.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SORTA *GOOD* AT THAT, HAVEN'T YA?
WELL, BUSTER--I *NEED* THIS PLANE. IT'LL SET ME UP REAL *NICE.*
BUT *BELIEVE* ME--IF I DON'T *GET IT*--
--THERE AIN'T *NOBODY* GONNA BE LEFT TO TELL THEM *HOW!*
TAKE A LITTLE LOOK-SEE ON MY YOUNG FRIEND'S *CHEST,* BIG MAN...
...NOW TELL ME... WHAT DO YOU *SEE?*
GOOD LORD... NO!
YOU *CALLED* IT, BRIGHT EYES...
THAT'S A HALF *POUND* OF PLASTIC *EXPLOSIVE,* DAREDEVIL!

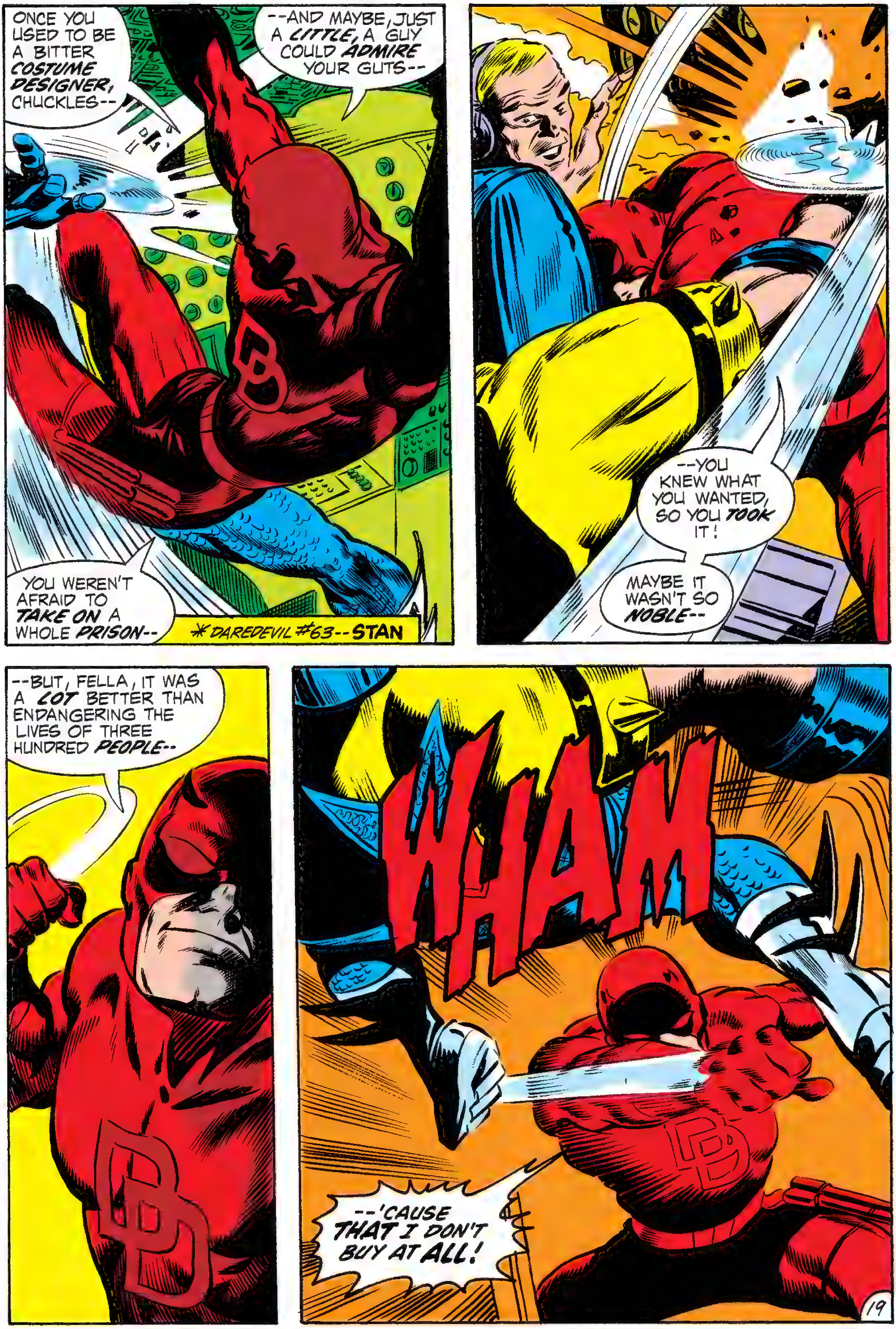

...JUST *ENOUGH* ON THE THREE OF 'EM TO BLOW US *ALL* BACK TO MERRIE OL' *ENGLAND!*
GOT THE *POINT?*
YOU'VE *CHANGED* SINCE WE LAST FOUGHT, GLADIATOR.
THE MAN *I* KNEW WAS *RUTHLESS*... BUT NO *KILLER!*
DD
YEAH? WELL MAYBE I *LEARNED* SOMETHING ALL THAT TIME I SPENT IN *JAIL*, HERO.
...LIKE, NOBODY MEANS *ANYTHING*... IF HE'S STANDIN' IN YOUR *WAY!*
BUT--FOR *NOW*, BOYS--JUST TIE 'EM ALL UP!
747
BOEING 747
AND SOON, THE GIANT AIRLINER ***TILTS***, *ITS GOLD AND EMERALD LIGHTS TWISTING AGAINST A MID-NIGHT* ***SKY...***
...AS IT STARTS ON ITS WAY SOUTHWARD, TO ***MEXICO!***
THE MINUTES CRAWL BY ***SLOWLY***, *UNTIL...*
WELL, WELL-- IF IT AIN'T THE FANCY *LADY.*
YOU GAVE ME A SMALL *PAIN* DOWN IN THAT LOUNGE, MISSIE--
--AND THINGS LIKE THAT-- *I DON'T FORGET!*
THAK
EASY, 'TASHA--

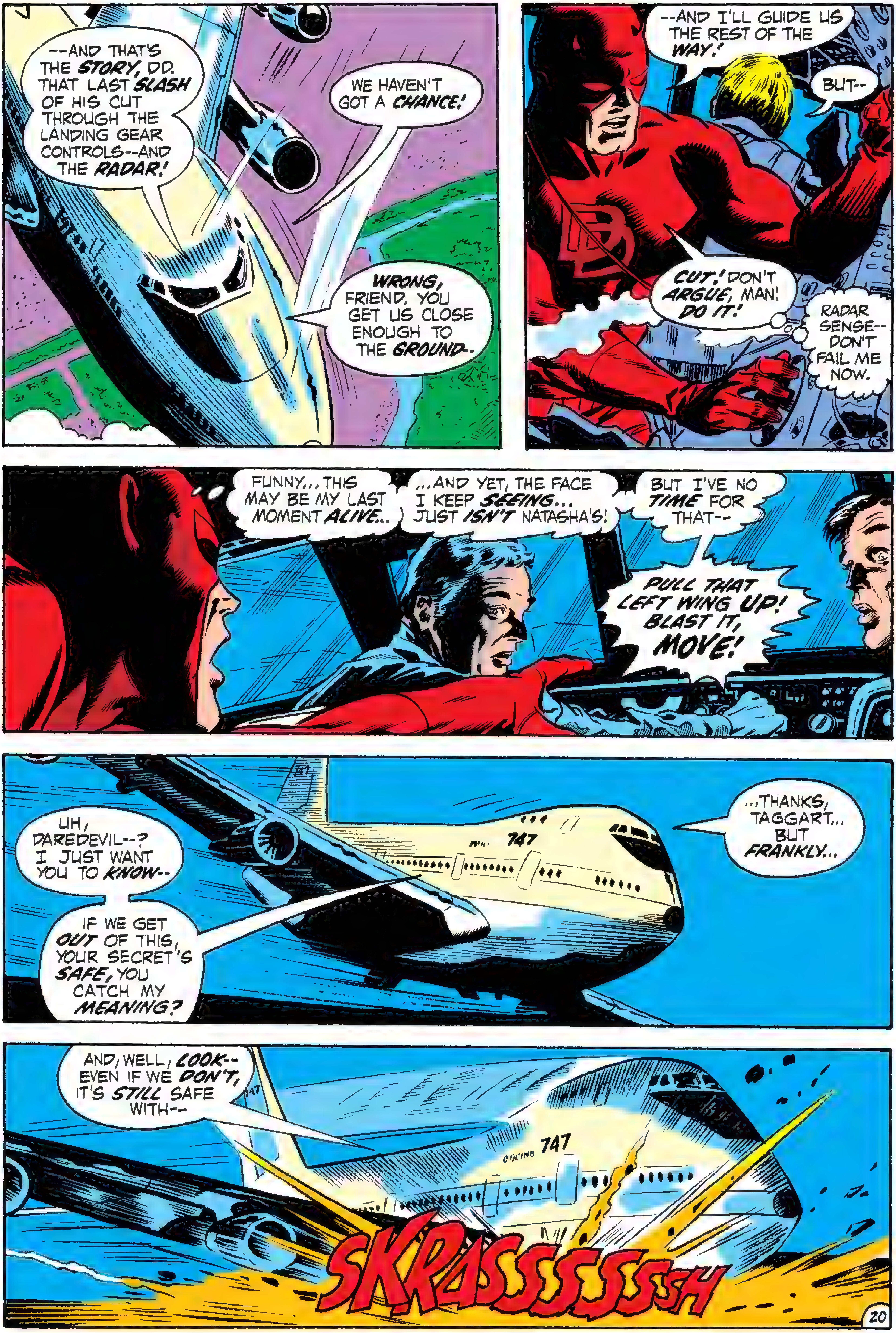

--DON'T LET THAT PUNK GET YOUR **GOAT.**
IVAN, YOU'RE MY FRIEND, AND I **LOVE** YOU--
--BUT **PLEASE,** MIND YOUR **OWN** BUSINESS, ALL RIGHT?
OOOOO-BOY. I SEE IVAN'S NOT **IMMUNE** TO THE WIDOW'S TEMPER AFTER **ALL.**
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IN COMMON FOR US AT **THAT.**
...AND UNLESS I MISS MY **GUESS...**
...OLD IVAN MIGHT BE THINKING THE SELFSAME **THING--**
--UH-OH--!
SO WE'VE MORE GUESTS THAN I **THOUGHT,** EH?
I HEARD ABOUT YOU, MY DEAR--PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD OF **ME?**
MY BRITISH FRIENDS **HADN'T,** WHEN I FIRST **APPROACHED** THEM WITH MY PLAN--
--BUT THEN, THE DOINGS OF AMERICAN CRIMINALS DON'T **ALWAYS** REACH THE CONTINENTAL PAPERS, **DO** THEY?
YET **NOW..**
YES, NOW I'LL **HAVE** THE FAME--
--FAME TO JOIN THE **RICHES** THIS GAME WILL **GAIN** ME!
HEAR **THAT,** TOURISTS?
THERE AIN'T **NOTHING** YOU CAN **DO!**

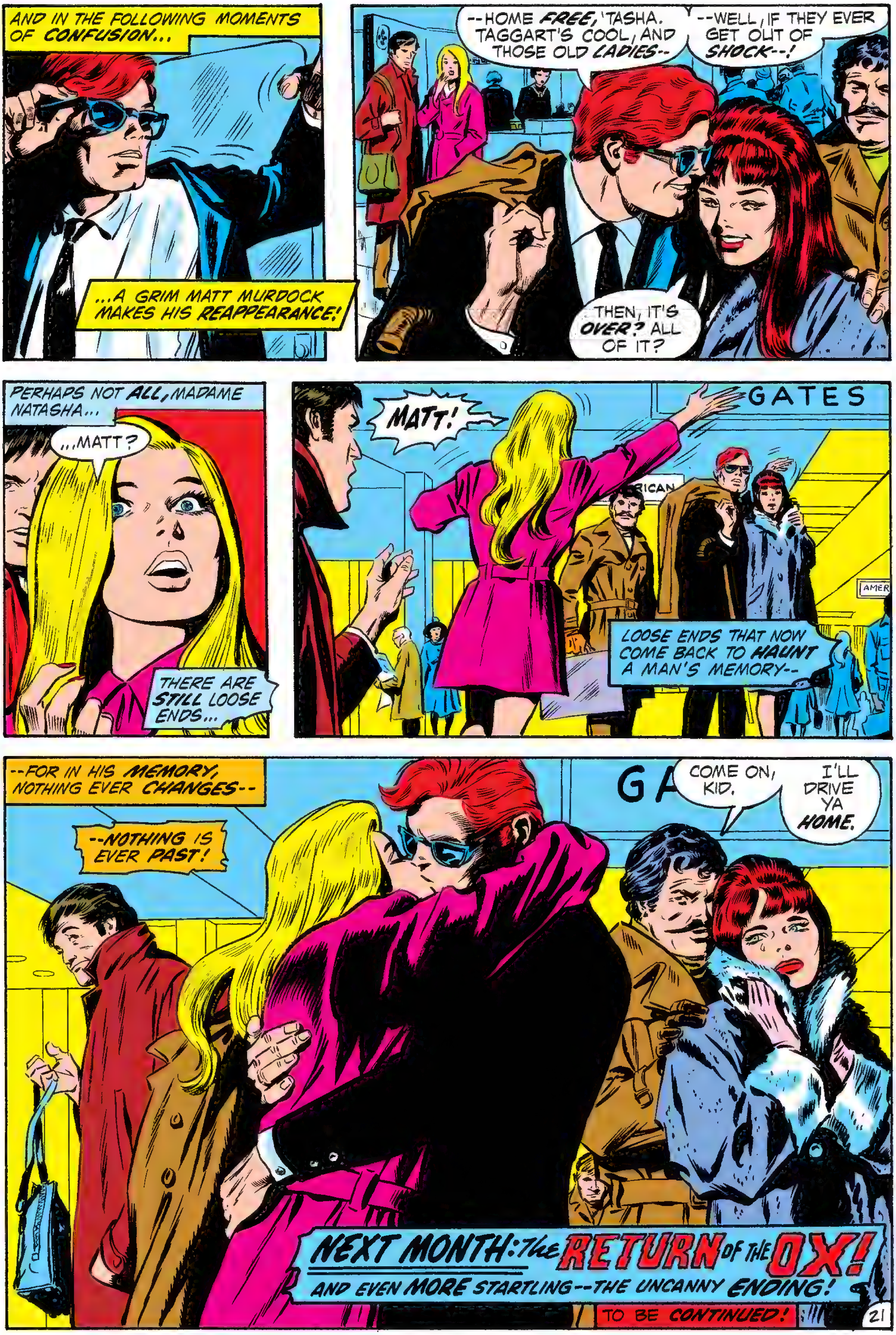

AHH, BUT ISN'T THERE, CHEECH? WHAT ABOUT A MAN YOU MISSED WHEN YOU DID YOUR CLEANING-UP--?
TAGGART! SOMEHOW THEY NEVER FOUND HIM... HE MUST HAVE BEEN HIDING IN THE LOUNGE!
IT'S UP TO HIM NOW--I DON'T DARE SAY A WORD!
HEY, DD... I SAW YOU CHANGE CLOTHES BEFORE--BUT YOU CAN BET I WON'T CHECK THE PASSENGER LIST FOR YOUR NAME OR ANY--
GOOD MAN, NAT! BUT HOLD IT--
--DON'T UNTIE THE WIDOW.
THIS JOB'S GOING TO BE DANGEROUS, AND I DON'T WANT HER INVOLVED.
OH, REALLY? WHAT MADE YOU THE ONE MAN ARMY, DAREDEVIL?
--DAREDEVIL?
ANSWER ME, BLAST YOU!
THE WIDOW'S REALLY FUMING... AND I CAN'T HONESTLY BLAME HER!
THERE'S NO REAL NEED TO KEEP HER OUT OF THE ACTION--SAVE ONE MINOR PERSONAL ONE--
--I WANT IVAN ON MY SIDE A LITTLE LATER--
--AND IF THAT MAKES NATASHA A BIT MAD, WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT!
NOW, TAGGART... HERE'S MY PLAN...!


SHORTLY, IN THE COCKPIT, AN URGENT KNOCKING GAINS THE GLADIATOR'S DIVIDED ATTENTION...
THAT MUST BE CHEECH. BENNIE, FIND OUT WHAT THAT FOOL WANTS.
IF IT'S TROUBLE WITH DAREDEVIL-- REMIND HIM I HOLD HIS LIFE--AND THREE HUNDRED OTHERS!
THUNK THUNK
RIGHT, BOSS!
AND A MOMENT LATER...
HEY, BOSS--WE NEED SOMEBODY ELSE OUT HERE, OKAY?
THUNK THUNK
NO BIG DEAL, IT'S JUST--
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT. BUCK, SEE WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE!
AND AGAIN...
BOSS, IT'S BUCK.
SEND SOMEBODY ELSE. WE GOT A SMALL PROBLEM.
BLAST THEM! FRANK-- GO AHEAD!
SURE, BOSS.
AND FINALLY...
THUD
NOW WHAT? IF THOSE IDIOTS HAVEN'T--
--AH, BUT THOSE IDIOTS HAVE!
DAREDEVIL!


SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET TOO *SURE* OF YOURSELF, RIVET-HEAD?
THOSE ENGLISH BULLY-BOYS YOU HIRED WEREN'T QUITE *UP* TO A STIFF *CLOUT*--
--*CORRECT,* MISTER TAGGART?
PRECISELY.
AND MY BEING IN ENGINEERING *DID* HELP MY DISMANTLING OF THESE *BOMBS*--CORRECT, MY FRIEND?
PRECISELY, MY FRIEND!
YOU WERE GOING TO *SELL* THIS PLANE TO THE HIGHEST SOUTH AMERICAN *BIDDER,* WEREN'T YOU, GLADIATOR?
I'LL LAY ODDS IT'D MAKE AN EXCELLENT *TROOP TRANSPORT*--
THRASH
--*WOULDN'T IT, GLADIATOR?*
YOU MINDLESS *FOOL*-- AAAARRRR


ONCE YOU USED TO BE A BITTER *COSTUME DESIGNER,* CHUCKLES--
--AND MAYBE, JUST A *LITTLE,* A GUY COULD *ADMIRE* YOUR GUTS--
YOU WEREN'T AFRAID TO *TAKE ON* A WHOLE *PRISON--*
*DAREDEVIL #63--STAN
--YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WANTED, SO YOU *TOOK* IT!
MAYBE IT WASN'T SO *NOBLE--*
--BUT, FELLA, IT WAS A *LOT* BETTER THAN ENDANGERING THE LIVES OF THREE HUNDRED *PEOPLE--*
WHAM
--'CAUSE *THAT I DON'T BUY AT ALL!*


--AND THAT'S THE STORY, DD. THAT LAST SLASH OF HIS CUT THROUGH THE LANDING GEAR CONTROLS--AND THE RADAR!
WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE!
WRONG, FRIEND. YOU GET US CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE GROUND--
--AND I'LL GUIDE US THE REST OF THE WAY!
BUT--
CUT! DON'T ARGUE, MAN! DO IT!
RADAR SENSE--DON'T FAIL ME NOW.
FUNNY... THIS MAY BE MY LAST MOMENT ALIVE...
...AND YET, THE FACE I KEEP SEEING... JUST ISN'T NATASHA'S!
BUT I'VE NO TIME FOR THAT--
PULL THAT LEFT WING UP! BLAST IT, MOVE!
UH, DAREDEVIL--? I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW--
IF WE GET OUT OF THIS, YOUR SECRET'S SAFE, YOU CATCH MY MEANING?
...THANKS, TAGGART... BUT FRANKLY...
747
AND, WELL, LOOK--EVEN IF WE DON'T, IT'S STILL SAFE WITH--
BOEING 747
SKRASSSSSSSH


AND IN THE FOLLOWING MOMENTS OF CONFUSION...
...A GRIM MATT MURDOCK MAKES HIS REAPPEARANCE!
--HOME FREE, 'TASHA. TAGGART'S COOL, AND THOSE OLD LADIES--
--WELL, IF THEY EVER GET OUT OF SHOCK--!
THEN, IT'S OVER? ALL OF IT?
PERHAPS NOT ALL, MADAME NATASHA...
...MATT?
THERE ARE STILL LOOSE ENDS...
MATT!
GATES
RICAN
AMER
LOOSE ENDS THAT NOW COME BACK TO HAUNT A MAN'S MEMORY--
--FOR IN HIS MEMORY, NOTHING EVER CHANGES--
--NOTHING IS EVER PAST!
GA
COME ON, KID.
I'LL DRIVE YA HOME.
NEXT MONTH: The RETURN OF THE OX!
AND EVEN MORE STARTLING--THE UNCANNY ENDING!
TO BE CONTINUED!

DAREDEVIL
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
20¢
CC
86
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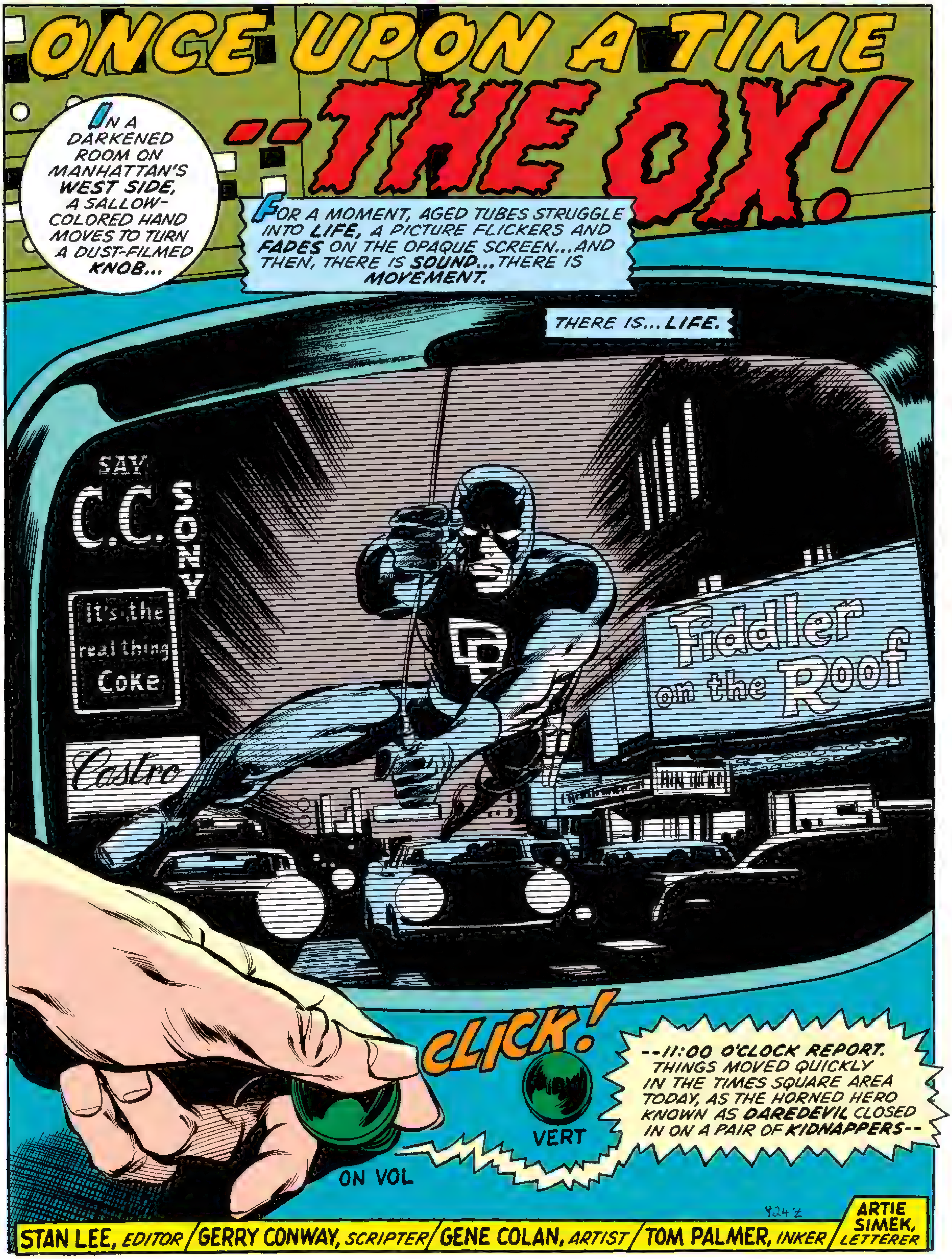
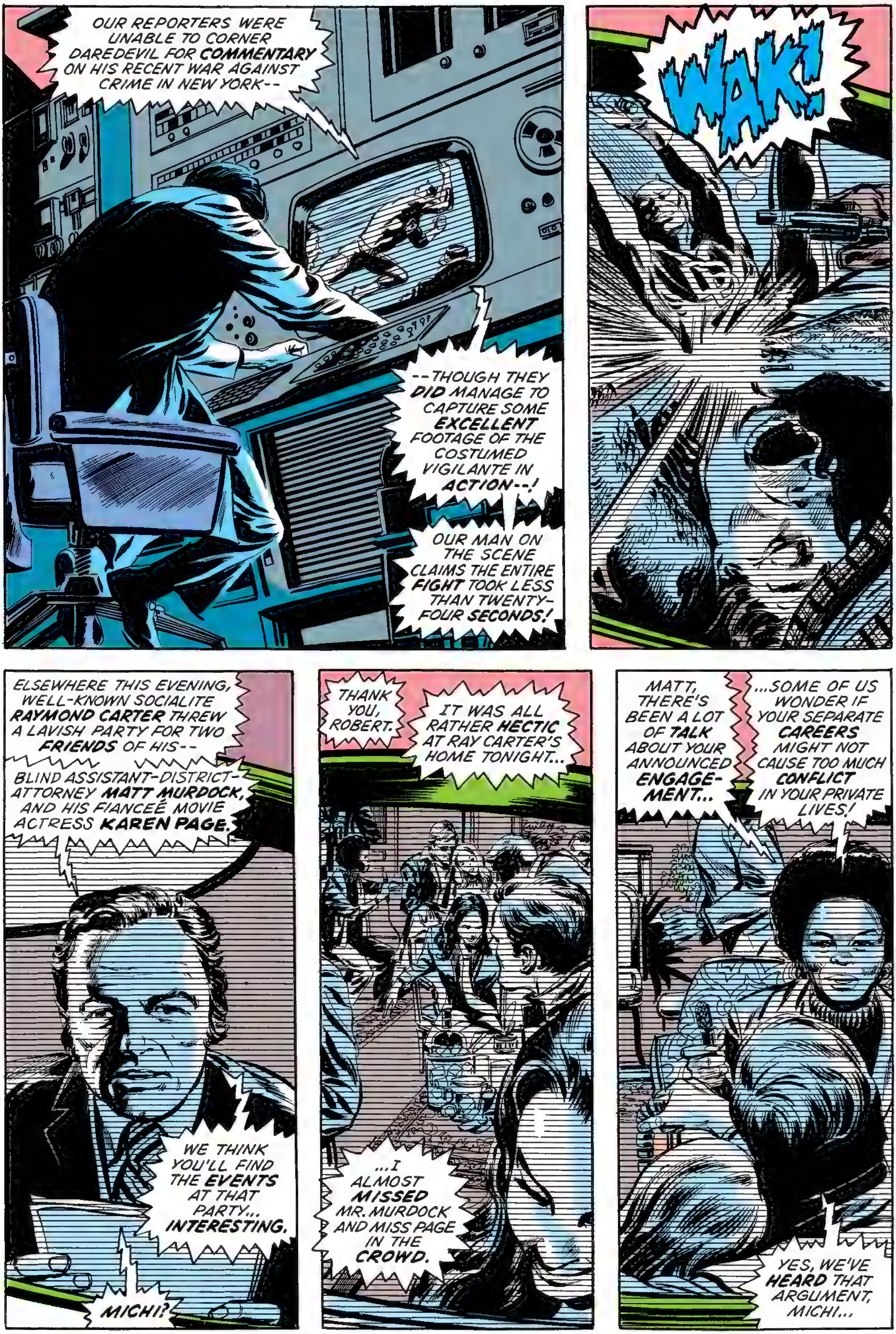
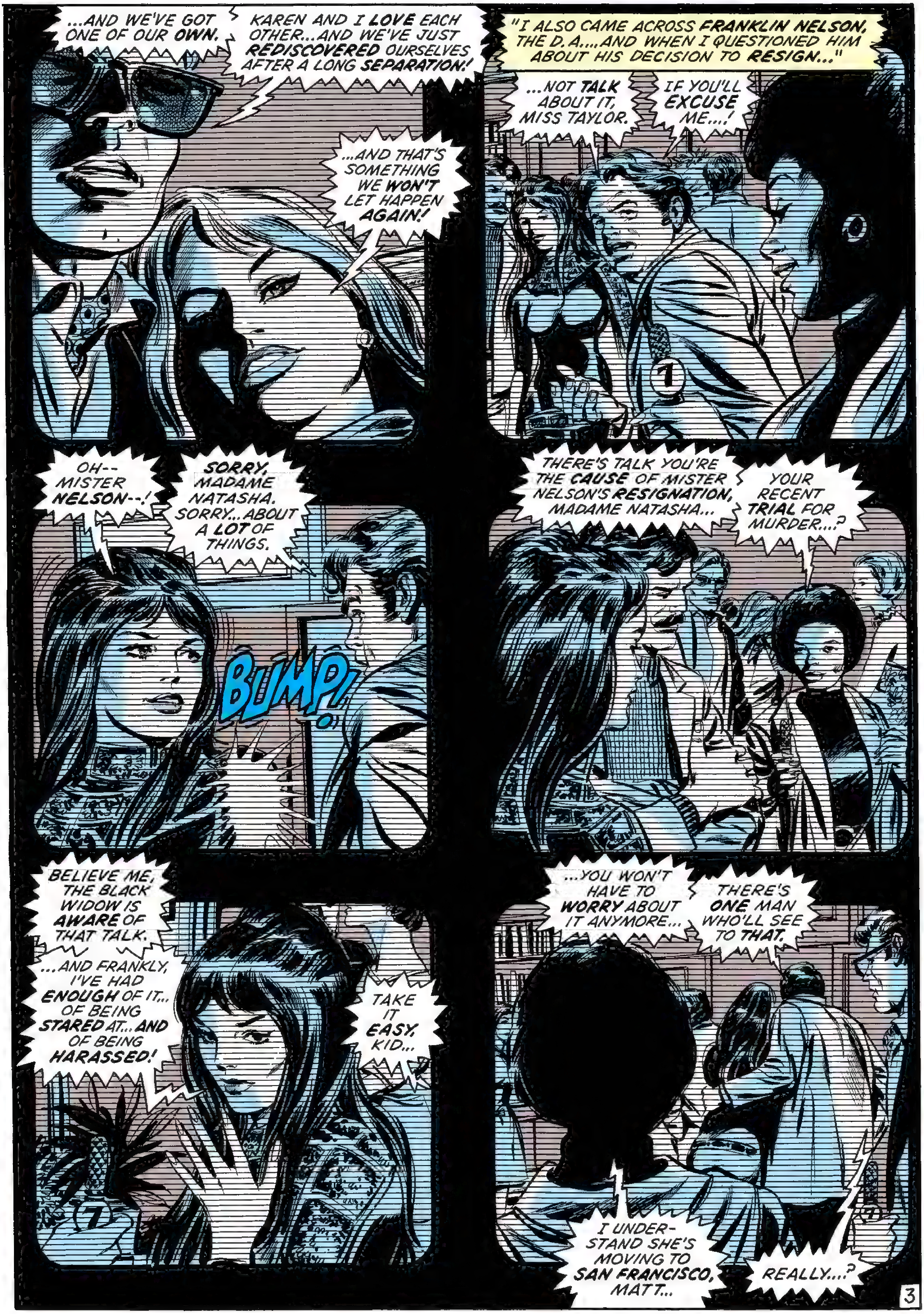
02459
DAREDEVIL
™
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO! DON'T LEAP OUT THE WINDOW!
IT'S THIRTY FLOORS TO THE STREET--STRAIGHT DOWN!!
TOO LATE, FOOL!
I'M DYING-- AND I'M TAKING YOU WITH ME!!
THE OX STRIKES AGAIN!

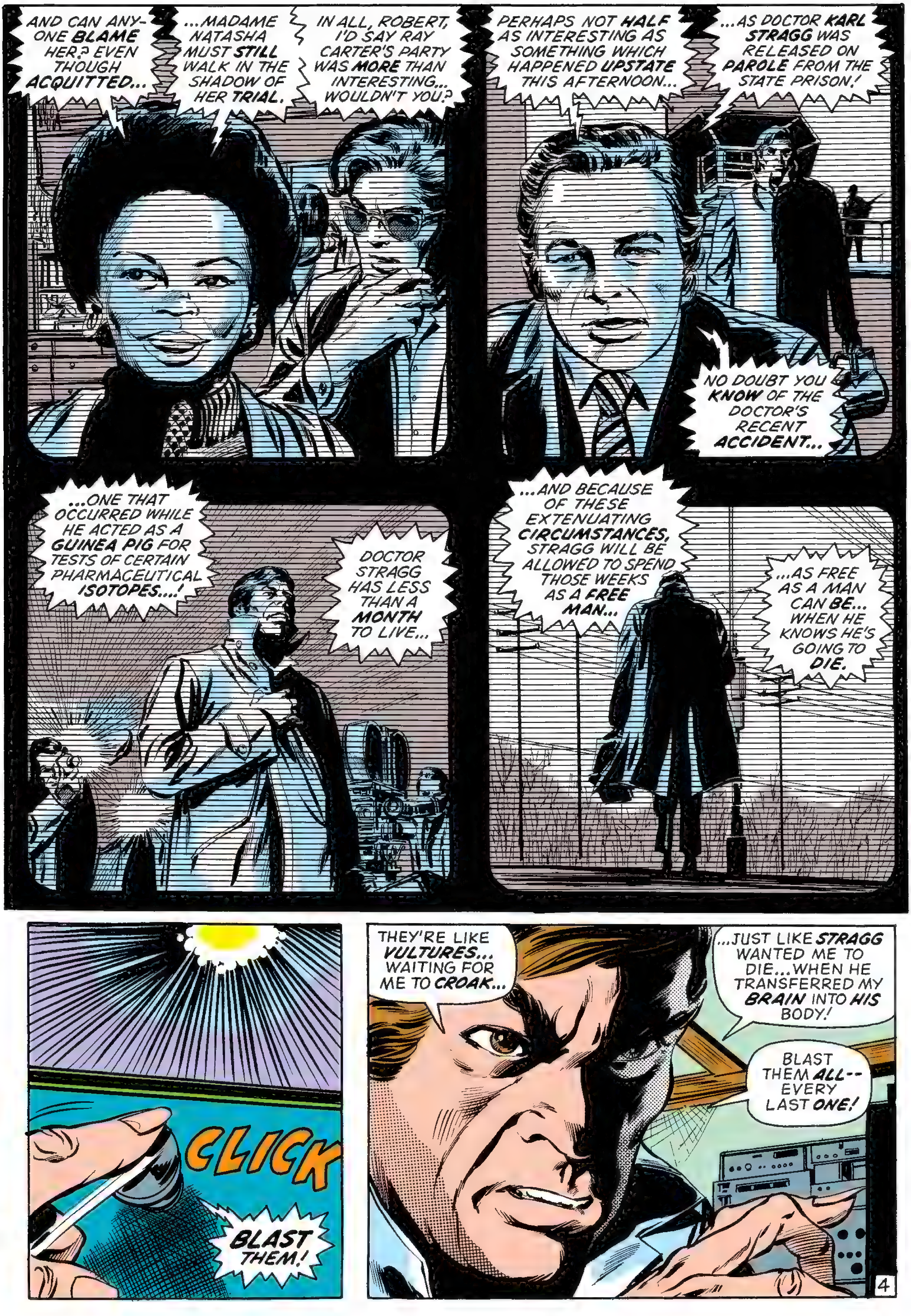
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

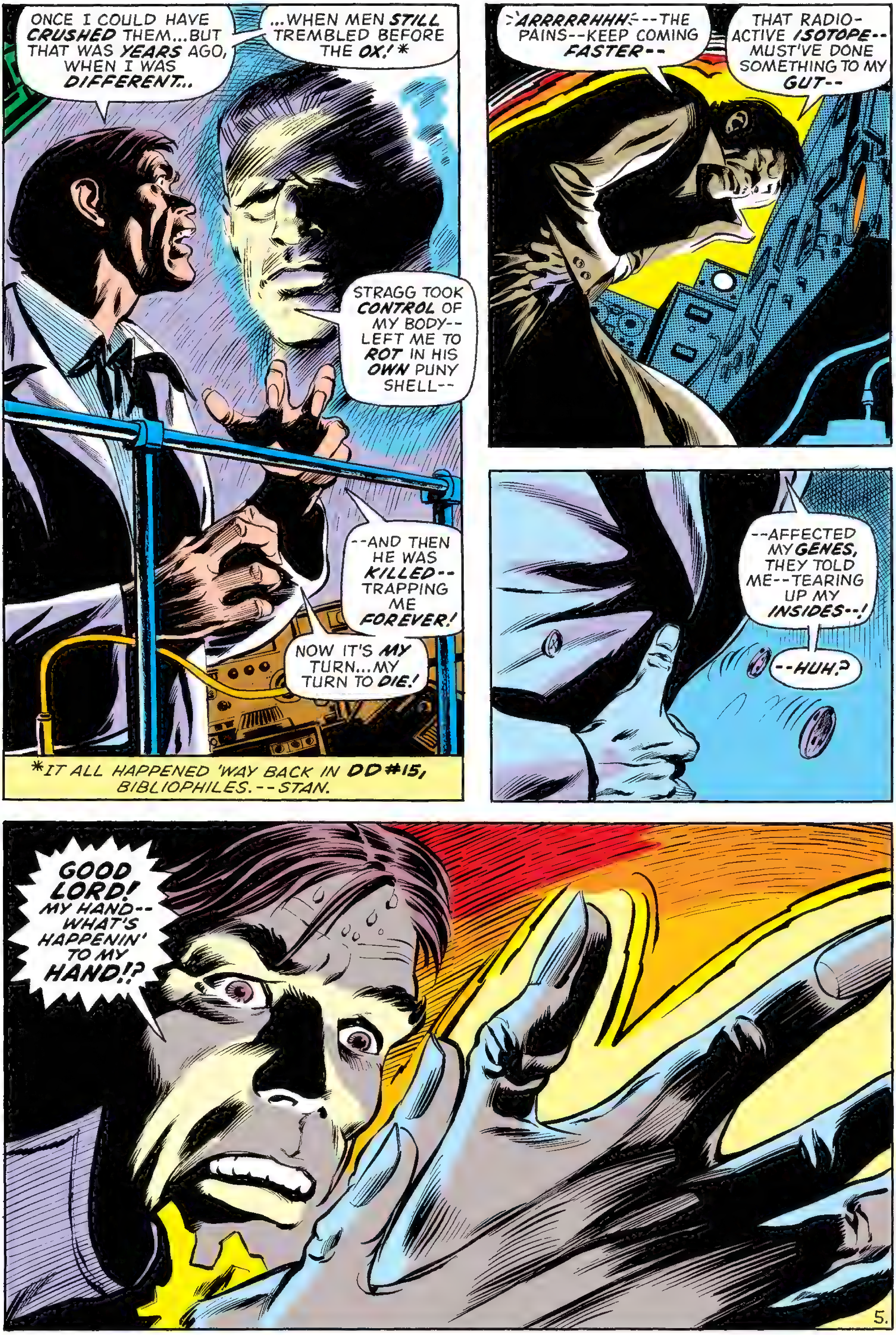

ONCE UPON A TIME --THE OX!
IN A DARKENED ROOM ON MANHATTAN'S WEST SIDE, A SALLOW-COLORED HAND MOVES TO TURN A DUST-FILMED KNOB...
FOR A MOMENT, AGED TUBES STRUGGLE INTO LIFE, A PICTURE FLICKERS AND FADES ON THE OPAQUE SCREEN...AND THEN, THERE IS SOUND...THERE IS MOVEMENT.
THERE IS...LIFE.
SAY C.C.
SONY
It's the real thing Coke
Castro
Fiddler on the Roof
CLICK!
ON VOL
VERT
--11:00 O'CLOCK REPORT. THINGS MOVED QUICKLY IN THE TIMES SQUARE AREA TODAY, AS THE HORNED HERO KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL CLOSED IN ON A PAIR OF KIDNAPPERS--

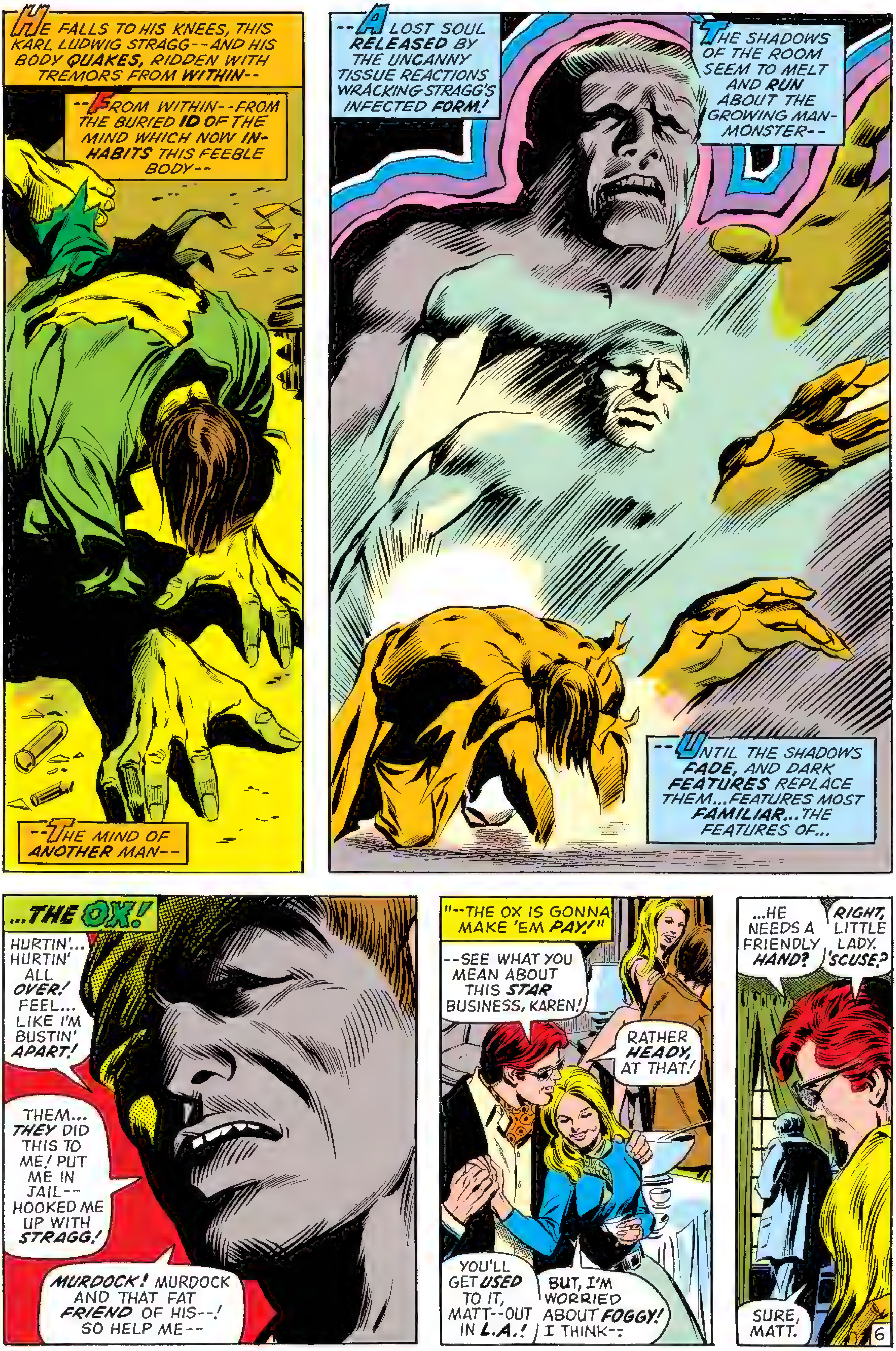
STAN LEE, *EDITOR* / GERRY CONWAY, *SCRIPTER* / GENE COLAN, *ARTIST* / TOM PALMER, *INKER* / ARTIE SIMEK, *LETTERER*

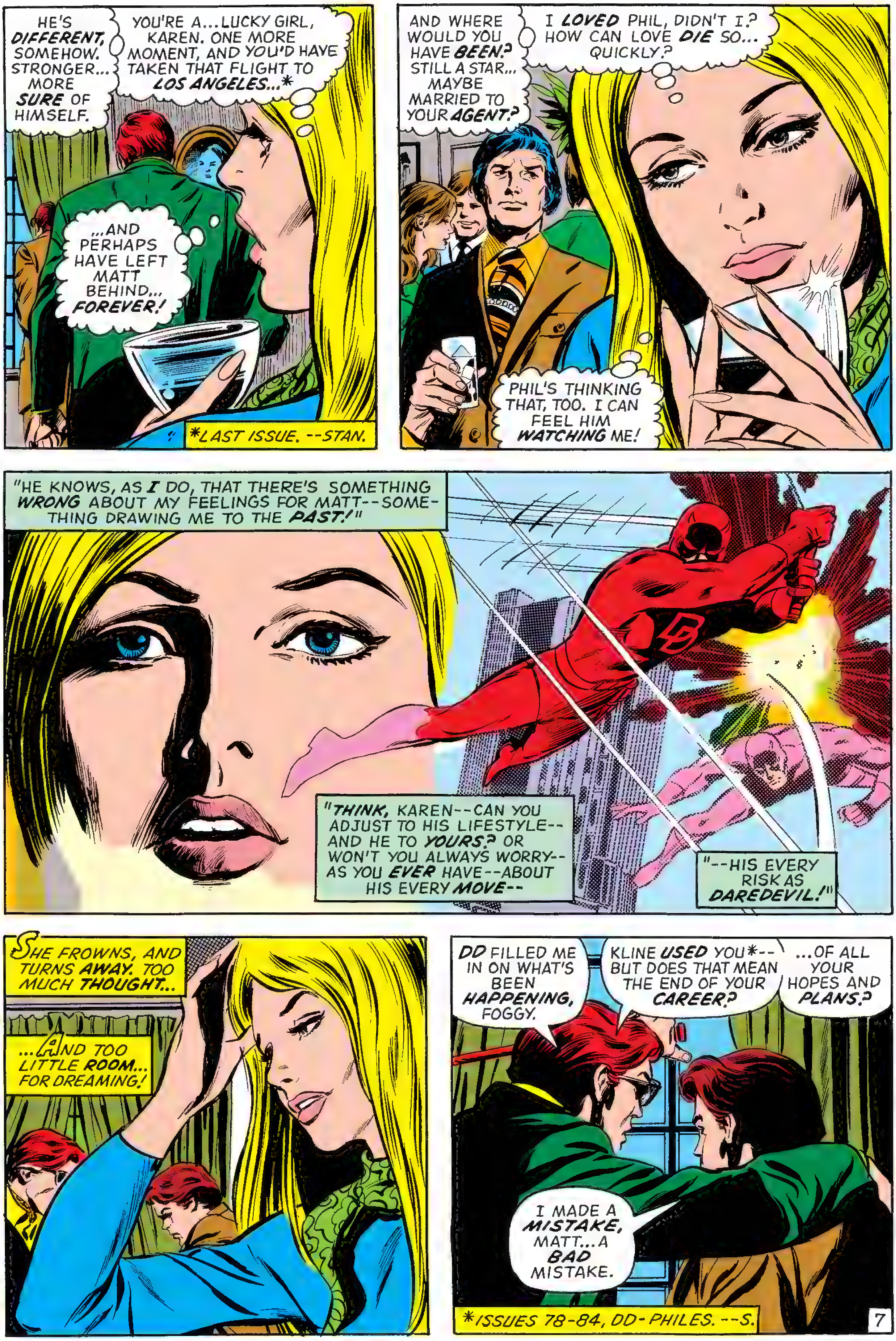

OUR REPORTERS WERE UNABLE TO CORNER DAREDEVIL FOR **COMMENTARY** ON HIS RECENT WAR AGAINST CRIME IN NEW YORK--
--THOUGH THEY **DID** MANAGE TO CAPTURE SOME **EXCELLENT** FOOTAGE OF THE COSTUMED VIGILANTE IN **ACTION**--!
OUR MAN ON THE SCENE CLAIMS THE ENTIRE **FIGHT** TOOK LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR **SECONDS!**
WAK!
ELSEWHERE THIS EVENING, WELL-KNOWN SOCIALITE **RAYMOND CARTER** THREW A LAVISH PARTY FOR TWO **FRIENDS** OF HIS--
BLIND ASSISTANT-DISTRICT-ATTORNEY **MATT MURDOCK**, AND HIS FIANCEÉ MOVIE ACTRESS **KAREN PAGE**.
WE THINK YOU'LL FIND THE **EVENTS** AT THAT PARTY... **INTERESTING.**
MICHI?
THANK YOU, ROBERT.
IT WAS ALL RATHER **HECTIC** AT RAY CARTER'S HOME TONIGHT...
...I ALMOST **MISSED** MR. MURDOCK AND MISS PAGE IN THE **CROWD.**
MATT, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF **TALK** ABOUT YOUR ANNOUNCED **ENGAGEMENT...**
...SOME OF US WONDER IF YOUR SEPARATE **CAREERS** MIGHT NOT CAUSE TOO MUCH **CONFLICT** IN YOUR PRIVATE LIVES!
YES, WE'VE **HEARD** THAT ARGUMENT, MICHI...

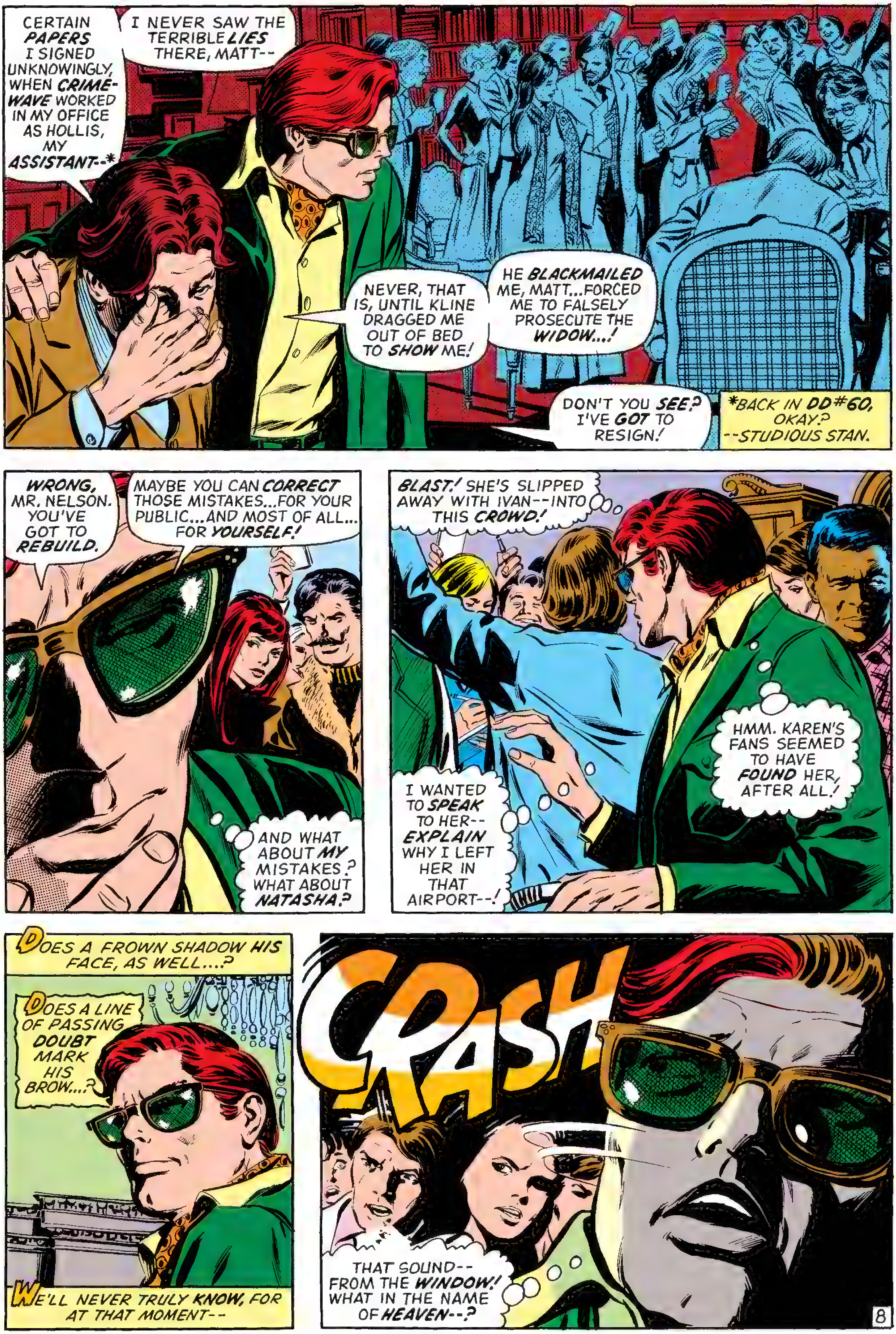

...AND WE'VE GOT ONE OF OUR **OWN.**
KAREN AND I **LOVE** EACH OTHER...AND WE'VE JUST **REDISCOVERED** OURSELVES AFTER A LONG **SEPARATION!**
...AND THAT'S SOMETHING WE **WON'T** LET HAPPEN **AGAIN!**
"I ALSO CAME ACROSS **FRANKLIN NELSON,** THE D.A....AND WHEN I QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT HIS DECISION TO **RESIGN...**"
...NOT **TALK** ABOUT IT, MISS TAYLOR.
IF YOU'LL **EXCUSE** ME....!
OH--MISTER **NELSON**--!
SORRY, MADAME NATASHA. SORRY...ABOUT A **LOT** OF THINGS.
BUMP!
THERE'S TALK YOU'RE THE **CAUSE** OF MISTER NELSON'S **RESIGNATION,** MADAME NATASHA...
YOUR RECENT **TRIAL** FOR MURDER...?
BELIEVE ME, THE BLACK WIDOW IS **AWARE** OF THAT TALK.
...AND FRANKLY, I'VE HAD **ENOUGH** OF IT... OF BEING **STARED** AT... **AND** OF BEING **HARASSED!**
TAKE IT **EASY,** KID...
...YOU WON'T HAVE TO **WORRY** ABOUT IT ANYMORE...
THERE'S **ONE** MAN WHO'LL SEE TO **THAT.**
I UNDERSTAND SHE'S MOVING TO **SAN FRANCISCO,** MATT...
REALLY...?

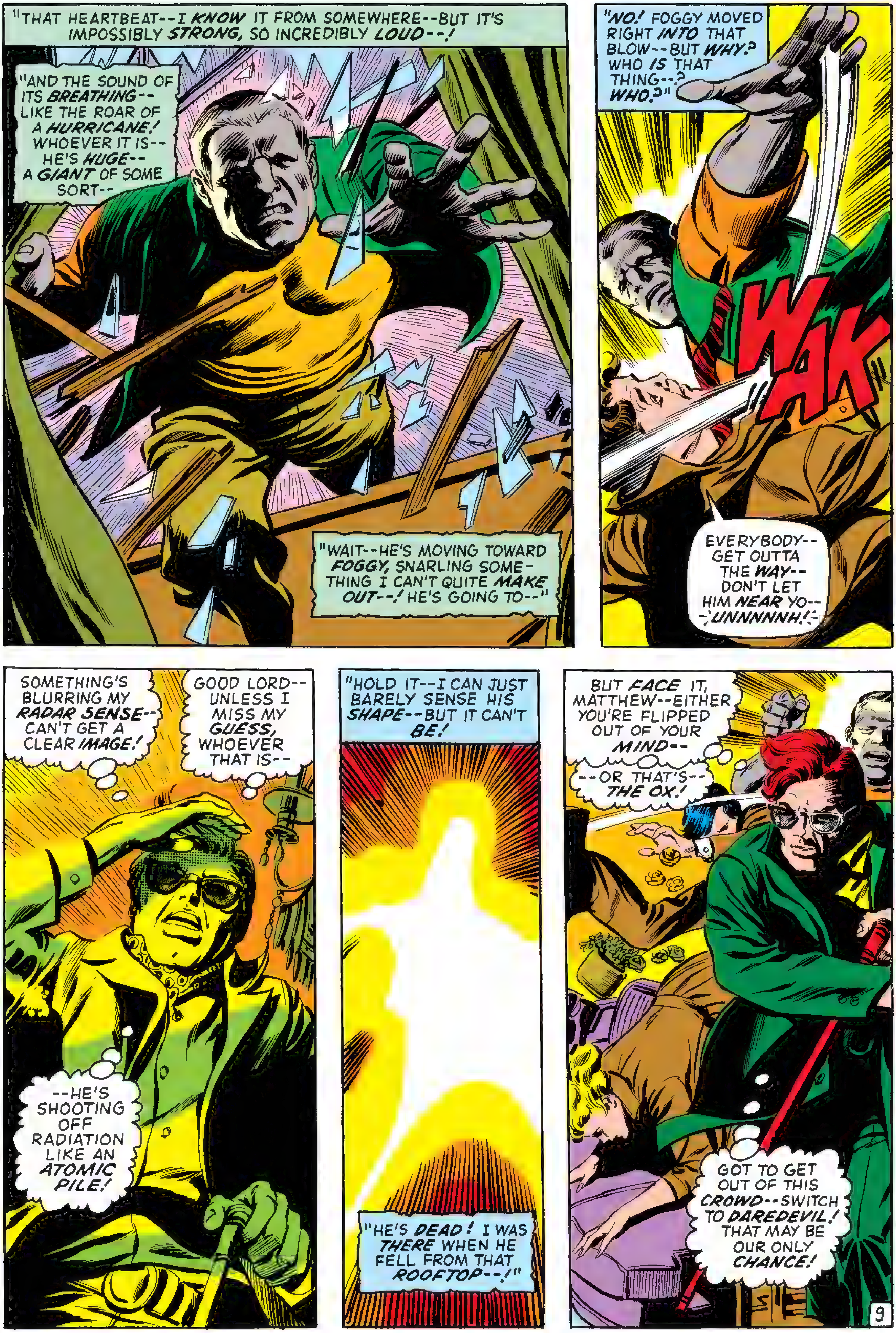

AND CAN ANYONE **BLAME** HER? EVEN THOUGH **ACQUITTED...**
...MADAME NATASHA MUST **STILL** WALK IN THE SHADOW OF HER **TRIAL.**
IN ALL, ROBERT, I'D SAY RAY CARTER'S PARTY WAS **MORE** THAN INTERESTING... WOULDN'T YOU?
PERHAPS NOT **HALF** AS INTERESTING AS SOMETHING WHICH HAPPENED **UPSTATE** THIS AFTERNOON...
...AS DOCTOR **KARL STRAGG** WAS RELEASED ON **PAROLE** FROM THE STATE PRISON!
NO DOUBT YOU **KNOW** OF THE DOCTOR'S RECENT **ACCIDENT...**
...ONE THAT OCCURRED WHILE HE ACTED AS A GUINEA PIG FOR TESTS OF CERTAIN PHARMACEUTICAL **ISOTOPES...!**
DOCTOR STRAGG HAS LESS THAN A **MONTH** TO LIVE...
...AND BECAUSE OF THESE EXTENUATING **CIRCUMSTANCES,** STRAGG WILL BE ALLOWED TO SPEND THOSE WEEKS AS A **FREE MAN...**
...AS FREE AS A MAN CAN **BE...** WHEN HE KNOWS HE'S GOING TO **DIE.**
CLICK
BLAST THEM!
THEY'RE LIKE **VULTURES...** WAITING FOR ME TO **CROAK...**
...JUST LIKE **STRAGG** WANTED ME TO DIE...WHEN HE TRANSFERRED MY **BRAIN** INTO **HIS** BODY!
BLAST THEM **ALL**-- EVERY LAST **ONE!**

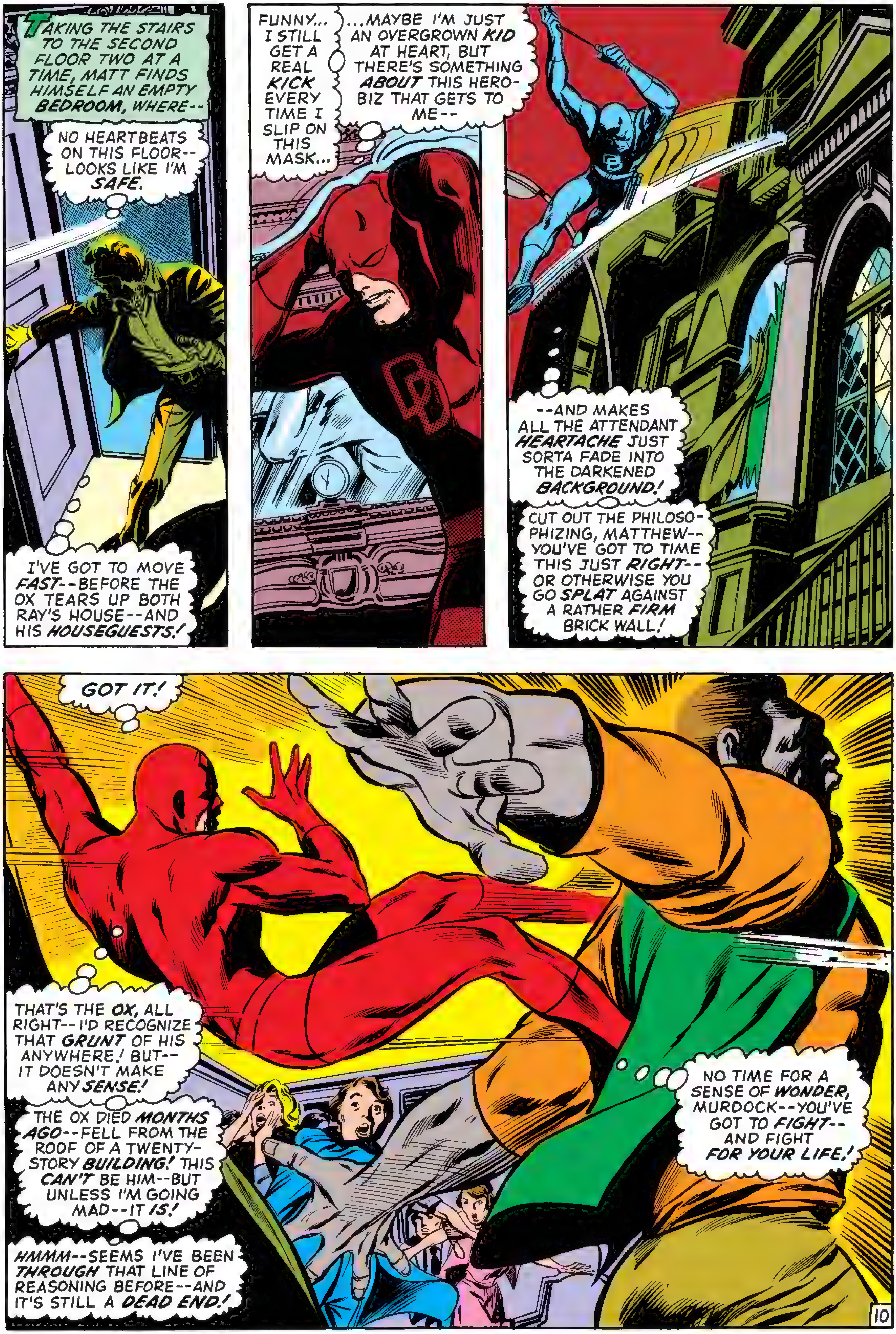

ONCE I COULD HAVE CRUSHED THEM...BUT THAT WAS YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS DIFFERENT...
...WHEN MEN STILL TREMBLED BEFORE THE OX! *
STRAGG TOOK CONTROL OF MY BODY--LEFT ME TO ROT IN HIS OWN PUNY SHELL--
--AND THEN HE WAS KILLED--TRAPPING ME FOREVER!
NOW IT'S MY TURN...MY TURN TO DIE!
*IT ALL HAPPENED 'WAY BACK IN DD #15, BIBLIOPHILES.--STAN.
ARRRRRHHH--THE PAINS--KEEP COMING FASTER--
THAT RADIO-ACTIVE ISOTOPE--MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING TO MY GUT--
--AFFECTED MY GENES, THEY TOLD ME--TEARING UP MY INSIDES--!
--HUH?
GOOD LORD! MY HAND--WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO MY HAND!?

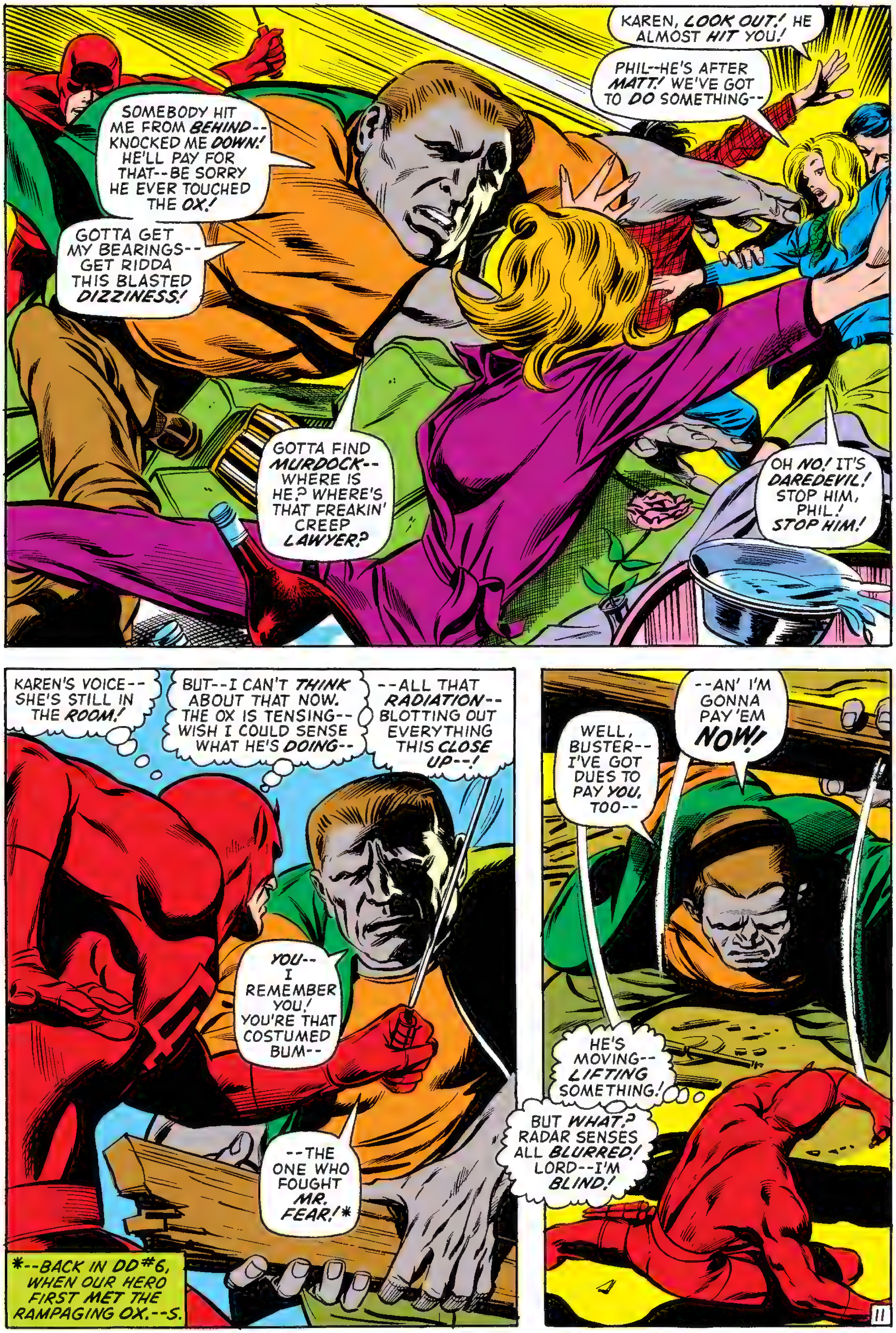

HE FALLS TO HIS KNEES, THIS KARL LUDWIG STRAGG--AND HIS BODY QUAKES, RIDDEN WITH TREMORS FROM WITHIN--
--FROM WITHIN--FROM THE BURIED ID OF THE MIND WHICH NOW INHABITS THIS FEEBLE BODY--
--THE MIND OF ANOTHER MAN--
--A LOST SOUL RELEASED BY THE UNCANNY TISSUE REACTIONS WRACKING STRAGG'S INFECTED FORM!
THE SHADOWS OF THE ROOM SEEM TO MELT AND RUN ABOUT THE GROWING MAN-MONSTER--
--UNTIL THE SHADOWS FADE, AND DARK FEATURES REPLACE THEM...FEATURES MOST FAMILIAR...THE FEATURES OF...
...THE OX!
HURTIN'... HURTIN' ALL OVER! FEEL... LIKE I'M BUSTIN' APART!
THEM... THEY DID THIS TO ME! PUT ME IN JAIL--HOOKED ME UP WITH STRAGG!
MURDOCK! MURDOCK AND THAT FAT FRIEND OF HIS--! SO HELP ME--
"--THE OX IS GONNA MAKE 'EM PAY!"
--SEE WHAT YOU MEAN ABOUT THIS STAR BUSINESS, KAREN!
RATHER HEADY, AT THAT!
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT, MATT--OUT IN L.A.!
BUT, I'M WORRIED ABOUT FOGGY! I THINK--
...HE NEEDS A FRIENDLY HAND?
RIGHT, LITTLE LADY. 'SCUSE?
SURE, MATT.

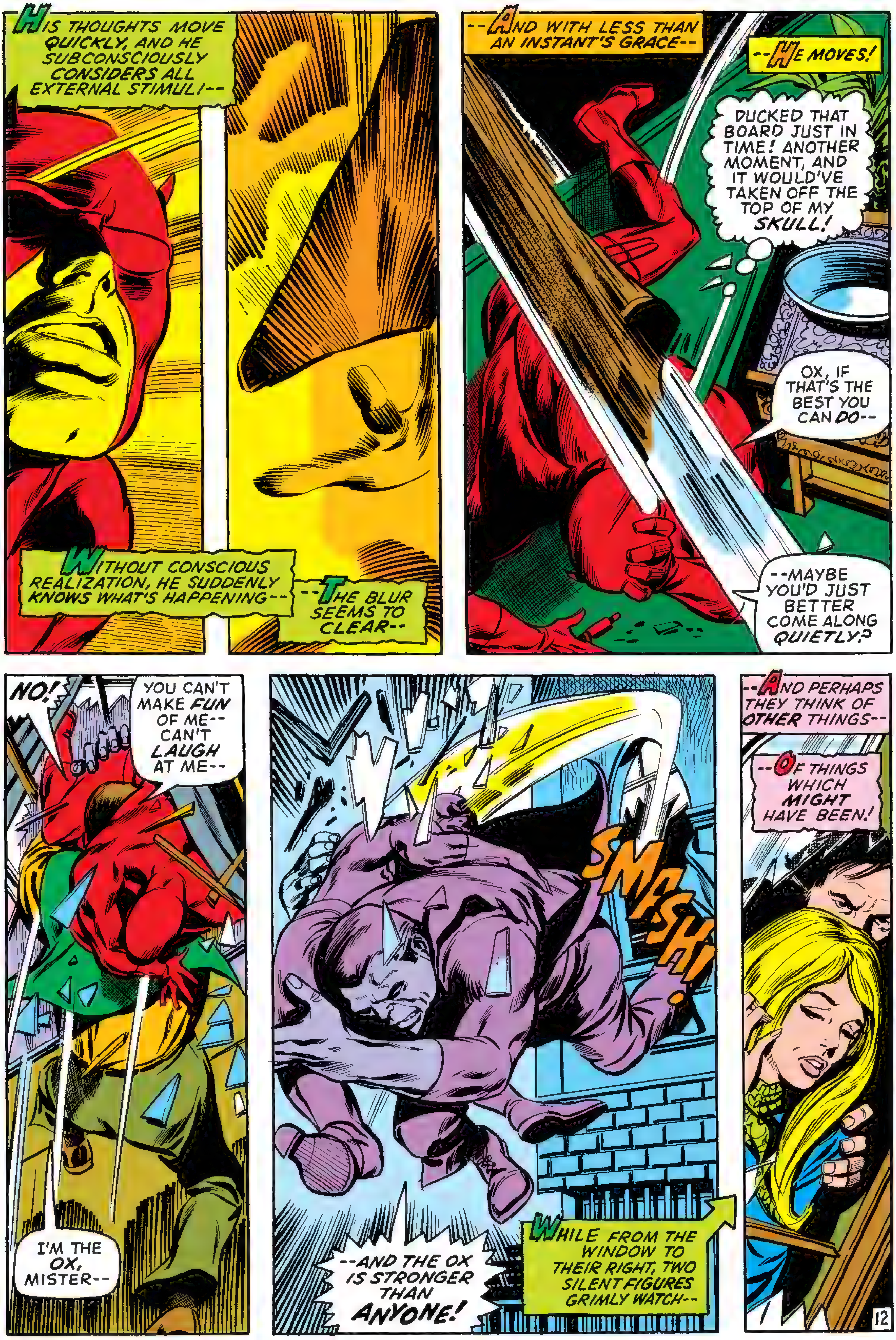

HE'S DIFFERENT, SOMEHOW. STRONGER... MORE SURE OF HIMSELF.
YOU'RE A...LUCKY GIRL, KAREN. ONE MORE MOMENT, AND YOU'D HAVE TAKEN THAT FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES...*
...AND PERHAPS HAVE LEFT MATT BEHIND... FOREVER!
*LAST ISSUE. --STAN.
AND WHERE WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN? STILL A STAR... MAYBE MARRIED TO YOUR AGENT?
I LOVED PHIL, DIDN'T I? HOW CAN LOVE DIE SO... QUICKLY?
PHIL'S THINKING THAT, TOO. I CAN FEEL HIM WATCHING ME!
"HE KNOWS, AS I DO, THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT MY FEELINGS FOR MATT--SOMETHING DRAWING ME TO THE PAST!"
"THINK, KAREN--CAN YOU ADJUST TO HIS LIFESTYLE--AND HE TO YOURS? OR WON'T YOU ALWAYS WORRY--AS YOU EVER HAVE--ABOUT HIS EVERY MOVE--
"--HIS EVERY RISK AS DAREDEVIL!"
SHE FROWNS, AND TURNS AWAY. TOO MUCH THOUGHT...
...AND TOO LITTLE ROOM... FOR DREAMING!
DD FILLED ME IN ON WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING, FOGGY.
KLINE USED YOU*--BUT DOES THAT MEAN THE END OF YOUR CAREER?
...OF ALL YOUR HOPES AND PLANS?
I MADE A MISTAKE, MATT... A BAD MISTAKE.
*ISSUES 78-84, DD-PHILES. --S.

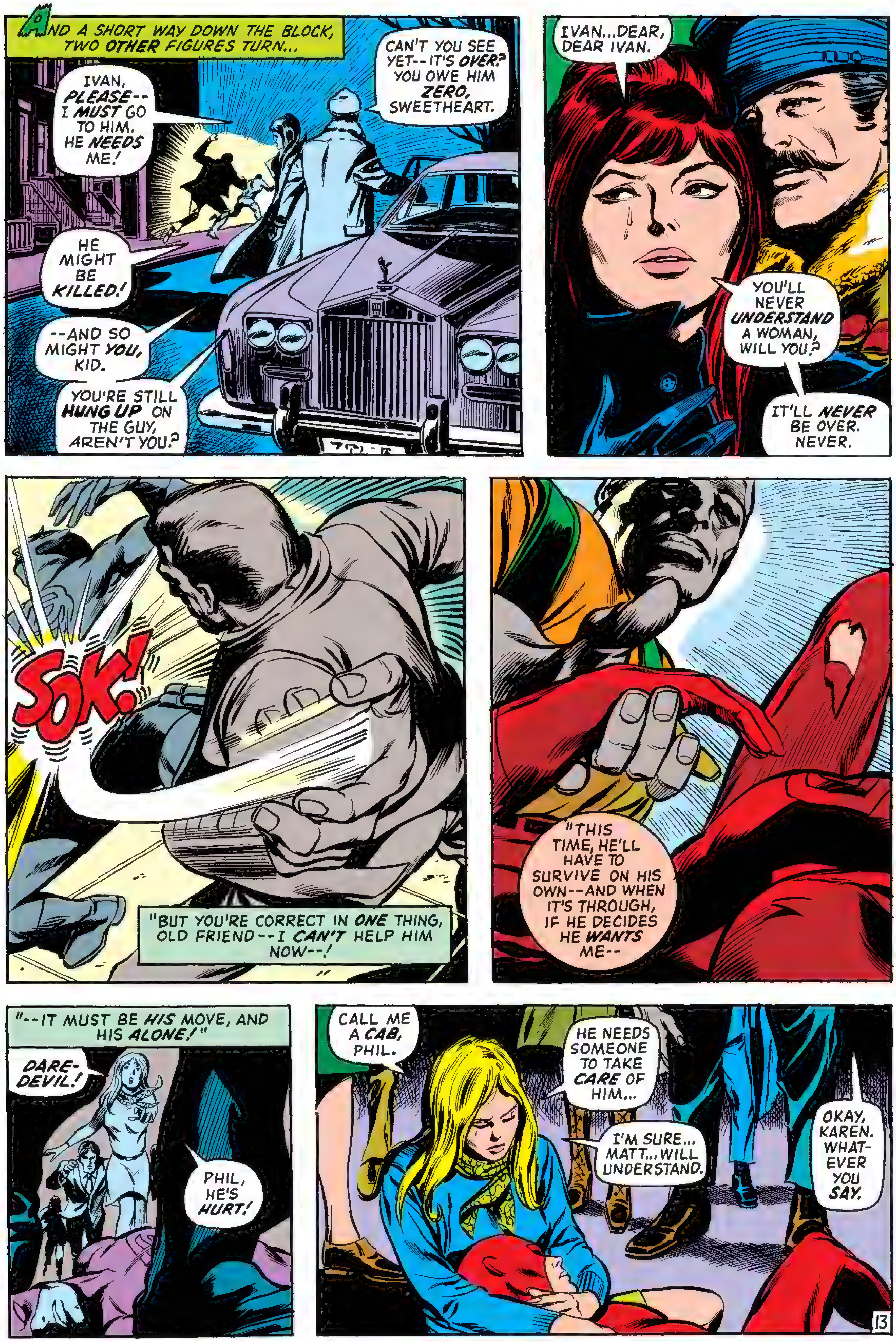

CERTAIN *PAPERS* I SIGNED UNKNOWINGLY, WHEN *CRIME-WAVE* WORKED IN MY OFFICE AS HOLLIS, MY *ASSISTANT*--*
I NEVER SAW THE TERRIBLE *LIES* THERE, MATT--
NEVER, THAT IS, UNTIL KLINE DRAGGED ME OUT OF BED TO *SHOW* ME!
HE *BLACKMAILED* ME, MATT...FORCED ME TO FALSELY PROSECUTE THE *WIDOW*...!
DON'T YOU *SEE?* I'VE *GOT* TO RESIGN!
*BACK IN *DD #60*, OKAY? --STUDIOUS STAN.
WRONG, MR. NELSON. YOU'VE GOT TO *REBUILD*.
MAYBE YOU CAN *CORRECT* THOSE MISTAKES...FOR YOUR PUBLIC...AND MOST OF ALL... FOR *YOURSELF!*
AND WHAT ABOUT *MY* MISTAKES? WHAT ABOUT *NATASHA?*
BLAST! SHE'S SLIPPED AWAY WITH IVAN--INTO THIS *CROWD!*
I WANTED TO *SPEAK* TO HER-- *EXPLAIN* WHY I LEFT HER IN THAT AIRPORT--!
HMM. KAREN'S FANS SEEMED TO HAVE *FOUND* HER, AFTER ALL!
DOES A FROWN SHADOW *HIS* FACE, AS WELL....?
DOES A LINE OF PASSING *DOUBT* MARK HIS BROW...?
WE'LL NEVER TRULY *KNOW*, FOR AT THAT MOMENT--
CRASH
THAT SOUND-- FROM THE *WINDOW!* WHAT IN THE NAME OF *HEAVEN*--?

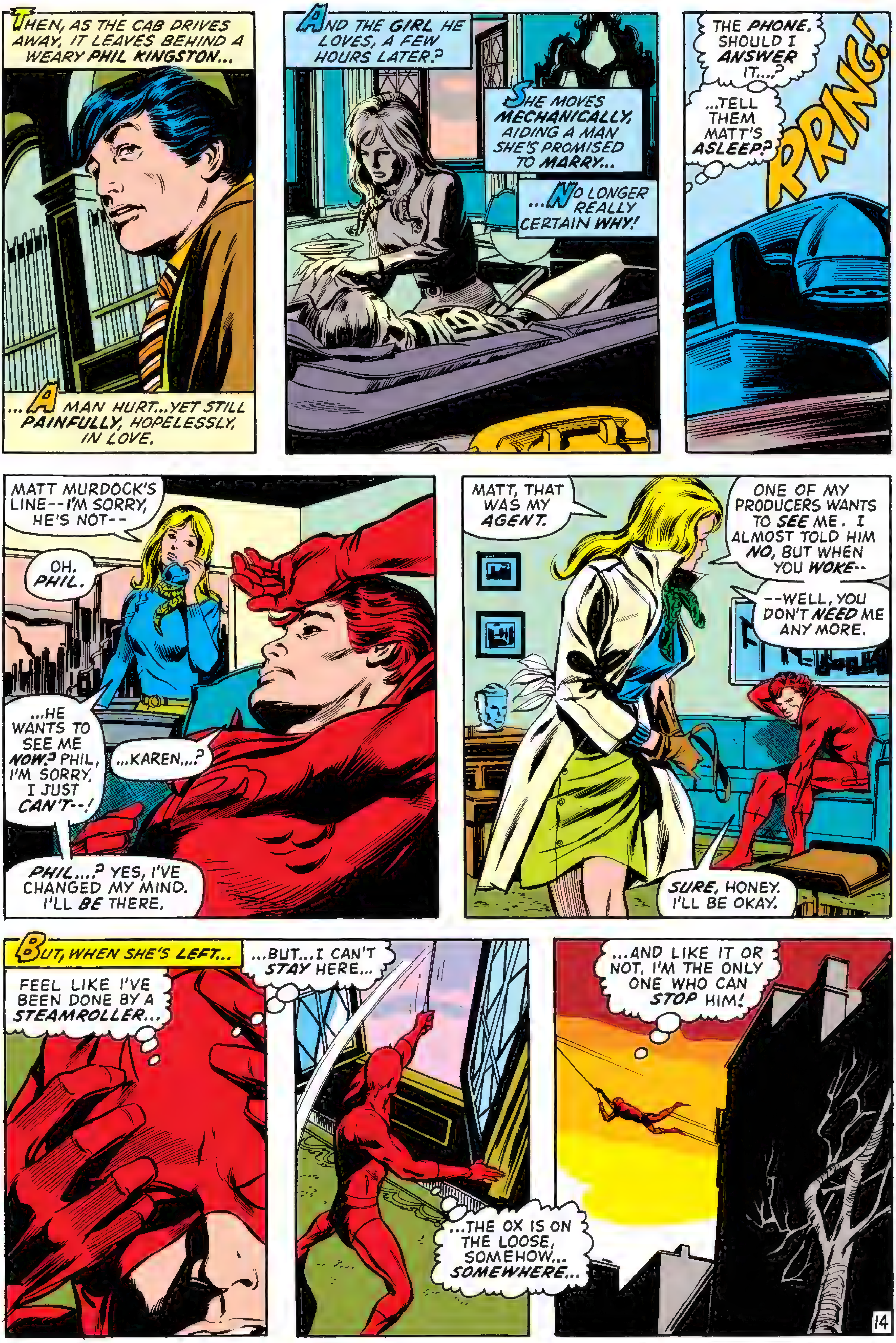

"THAT HEARTBEAT--I *KNOW* IT FROM SOMEWHERE--BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLY *STRONG,* SO INCREDIBLY *LOUD*--!
"AND THE SOUND OF ITS *BREATHING*--LIKE THE ROAR OF A *HURRICANE!* WHOEVER IT IS--HE'S *HUGE*--A *GIANT* OF SOME SORT--
"WAIT--HE'S MOVING TOWARD *FOGGY,* SNARLING SOMETHING I CAN'T QUITE *MAKE OUT*--! HE'S GOING TO--"
"*NO!* FOGGY MOVED RIGHT *INTO* THAT BLOW--BUT *WHY?* WHO *IS* THAT THING--? *WHO?*"
WAK
EVERYBODY--GET OUTTA THE *WAY*--DON'T LET HIM *NEAR* YO--*UNNNNNH!*
SOMETHING'S BLURRING MY *RADAR SENSE*--CAN'T GET A CLEAR *IMAGE!*
GOOD LORD--UNLESS I MISS MY *GUESS,* WHOEVER THAT IS--
--HE'S SHOOTING OFF RADIATION LIKE AN *ATOMIC PILE!*
"HOLD IT--I CAN JUST BARELY SENSE HIS *SHAPE*--BUT IT CAN'T *BE!*
"HE'S *DEAD!* I WAS *THERE* WHEN HE FELL FROM THAT *ROOFTOP*--!"
BUT *FACE* IT, MATTHEW--EITHER YOU'RE FLIPPED OUT OF YOUR *MIND*--
--OR THAT'S--*THE OX!*
GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS *CROWD*--SWITCH TO *DAREDEVIL!* THAT MAY BE OUR ONLY *CHANCE!*
9

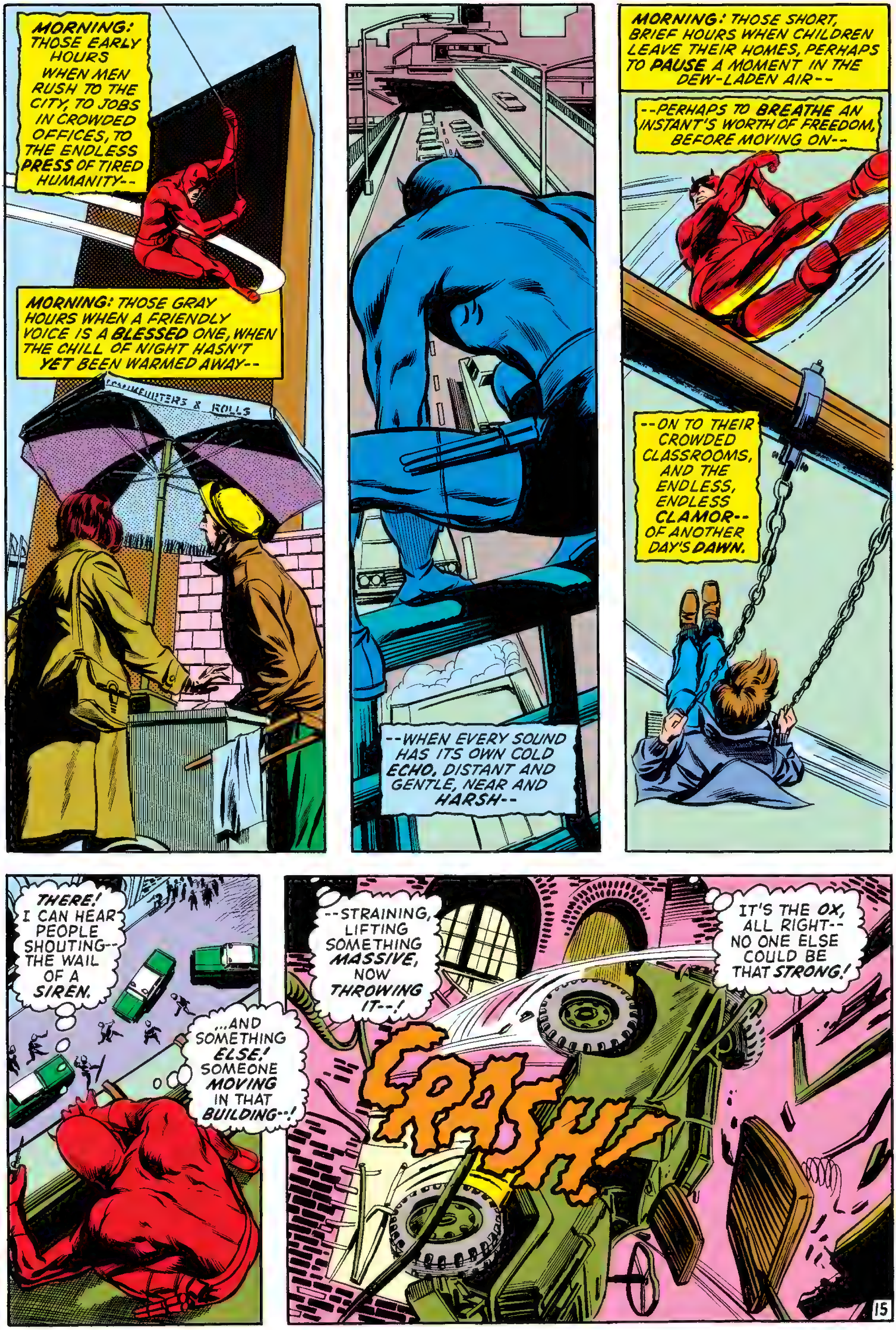

TAKING THE STAIRS TO THE SECOND FLOOR TWO AT A TIME, MATT FINDS HIMSELF AN EMPTY BEDROOM, WHERE--
NO HEARTBEATS ON THIS FLOOR-- LOOKS LIKE I'M SAFE.
I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST--BEFORE THE OX TEARS UP BOTH RAY'S HOUSE--AND HIS HOUSEGUESTS!
FUNNY... I STILL GET A REAL KICK EVERY TIME I SLIP ON THIS MASK...
...MAYBE I'M JUST AN OVERGROWN KID AT HEART, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS HERO-BIZ THAT GETS TO ME--
--AND MAKES ALL THE ATTENDANT HEARTACHE JUST SORTA FADE INTO THE DARKENED BACKGROUND!
CUT OUT THE PHILOSOPHIZING, MATTHEW--YOU'VE GOT TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT--OR OTHERWISE YOU GO SPLAT AGAINST A RATHER FIRM BRICK WALL!
GOT IT!
THAT'S THE OX, ALL RIGHT--I'D RECOGNIZE THAT GRUNT OF HIS ANYWHERE! BUT--IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
THE OX DIED MONTHS AGO--FELL FROM THE ROOF OF A TWENTY-STORY BUILDING! THIS CAN'T BE HIM--BUT UNLESS I'M GOING MAD--IT IS!
HMMM--SEEMS I'VE BEEN THROUGH THAT LINE OF REASONING BEFORE--AND IT'S STILL A DEAD END!
NO TIME FOR A SENSE OF WONDER, MURDOCK--YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT--AND FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE!

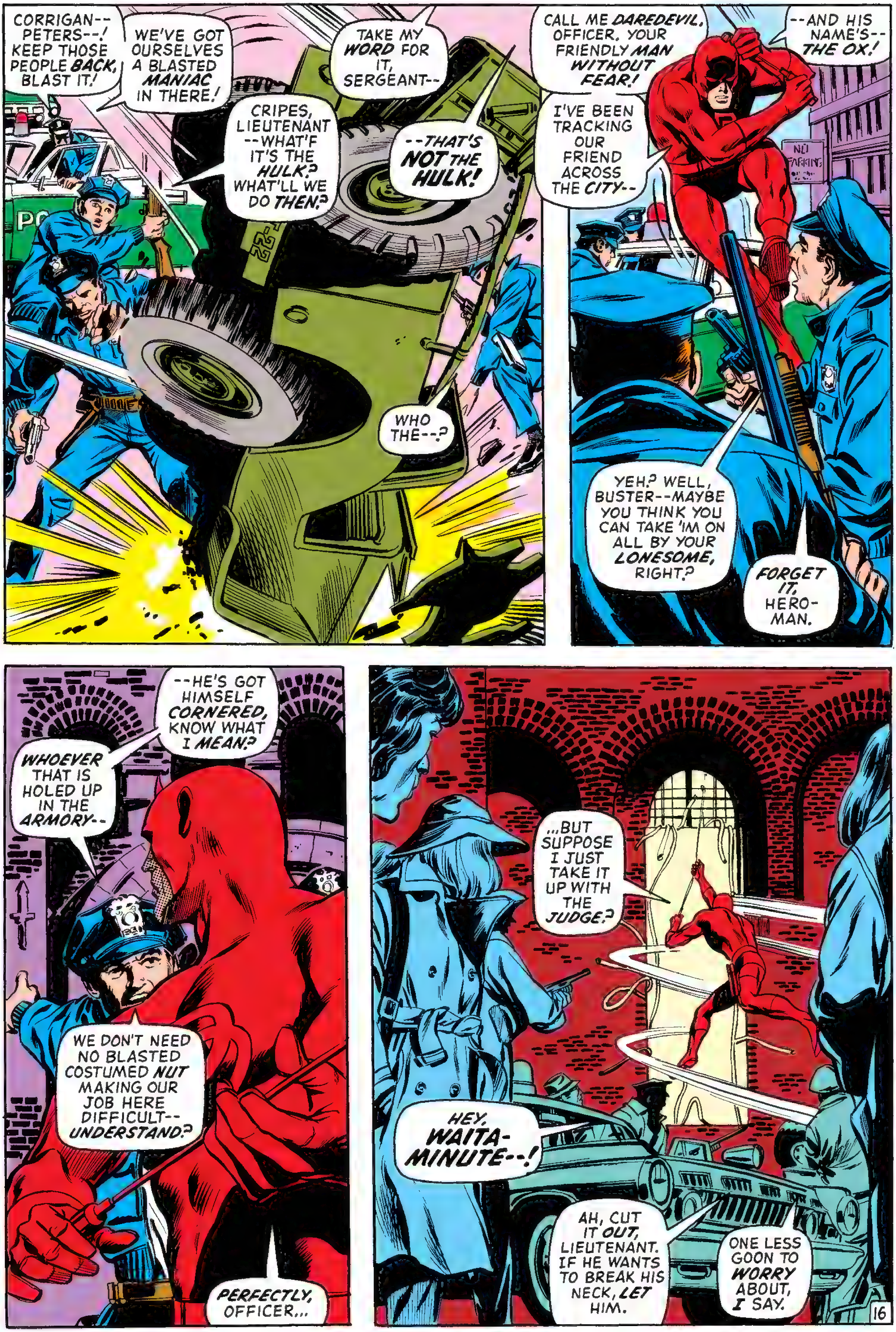

KAREN, LOOK OUT! HE ALMOST HIT YOU!
PHIL--HE'S AFTER MATT! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--
SOMEBODY HIT ME FROM BEHIND--KNOCKED ME DOWN! HE'LL PAY FOR THAT--BE SORRY HE EVER TOUCHED THE OX!
GOTTA GET MY BEARINGS--GET RIDDA THIS BLASTED DIZZINESS!
GOTTA FIND MURDOCK--WHERE IS HE? WHERE'S THAT FREAKIN' CREEP LAWYER?
OH NO! IT'S DAREDEVIL! STOP HIM, PHIL! STOP HIM!
KAREN'S VOICE--SHE'S STILL IN THE ROOM!
BUT--I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT NOW. THE OX IS TENSING--WISH I COULD SENSE WHAT HE'S DOING--
--ALL THAT RADIATION--BLOTTING OUT EVERYTHING THIS CLOSE UP--!
YOU--I REMEMBER YOU! YOU'RE THAT COSTUMED BUM--
--THE ONE WHO FOUGHT MR. FEAR!*
*--BACK IN DD #6, WHEN OUR HERO FIRST MET THE RAMPAGING OX.--S.
WELL, BUSTER--I'VE GOT DUES TO PAY YOU, TOO--
--AN' I'M GONNA PAY 'EM NOW!
HE'S MOVING--LIFTING SOMETHING!
BUT WHAT? RADAR SENSES ALL BLURRED! LORD--I'M BLIND!

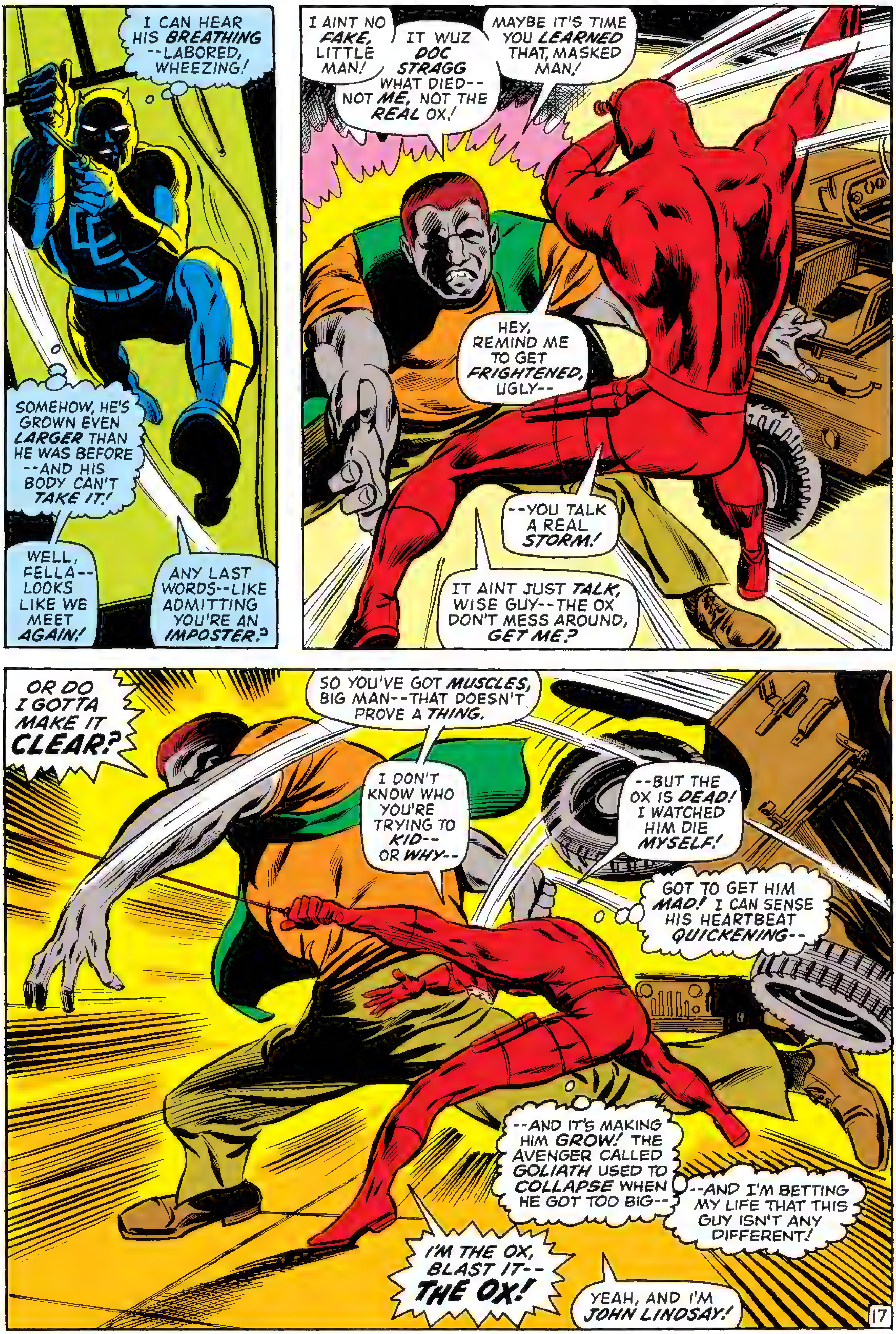

HIS THOUGHTS MOVE QUICKLY, AND HE SUBCONSCIOUSLY CONSIDERS ALL EXTERNAL STIMULI--
WITHOUT CONSCIOUS REALIZATION, HE SUDDENLY KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING--
--THE BLUR SEEMS TO CLEAR--
--AND WITH LESS THAN AN INSTANT'S GRACE--
--HE MOVES!
DUCKED THAT BOARD JUST IN TIME! ANOTHER MOMENT, AND IT WOULD'VE TAKEN OFF THE TOP OF MY SKULL!
OX, IF THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO--
--MAYBE YOU'D JUST BETTER COME ALONG QUIETLY?
NO!
YOU CAN'T MAKE FUN OF ME-- CAN'T LAUGH AT ME--
I'M THE OX, MISTER--
SMASH!
--AND THE OX IS STRONGER THAN ANYONE!
WHILE FROM THE WINDOW TO THEIR RIGHT, TWO SILENT FIGURES GRIMLY WATCH--
--AND PERHAPS THEY THINK OF OTHER THINGS--
--OF THINGS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN!

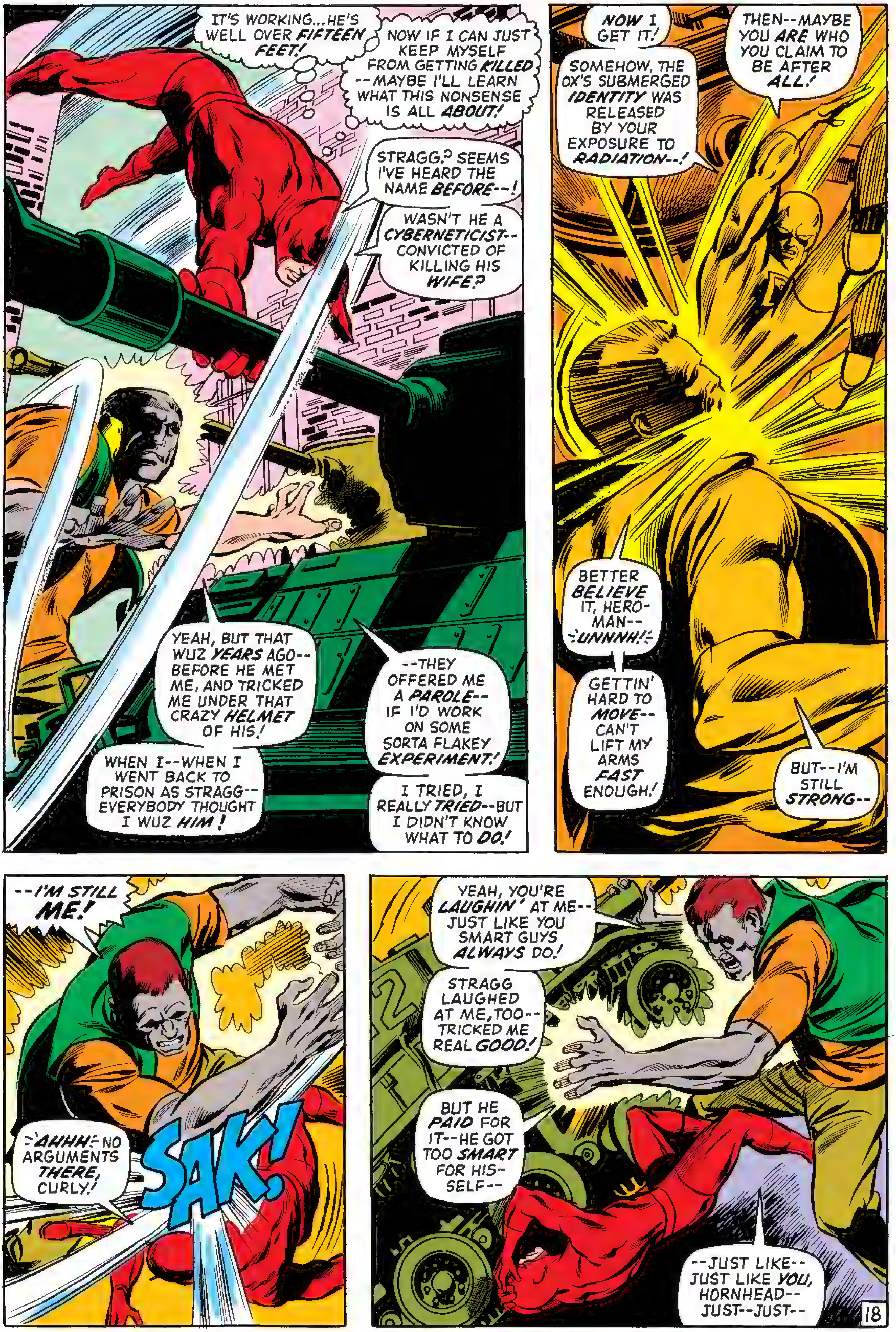

AND A SHORT WAY DOWN THE BLOCK, TWO **OTHER** FIGURES TURN...
IVAN, **PLEASE**-- I **MUST** GO TO HIM. HE **NEEDS** ME!
CAN'T YOU SEE YET--IT'S **OVER?** YOU OWE HIM **ZERO,** SWEETHEART.
HE MIGHT BE **KILLED!**
--AND SO MIGHT **YOU,** KID.
YOU'RE STILL **HUNG UP** ON THE GUY, AREN'T YOU?
IVAN...DEAR, DEAR IVAN.
YOU'LL NEVER **UNDERSTAND** A WOMAN, WILL YOU?
IT'LL **NEVER** BE OVER. NEVER.
SOK!
"BUT YOU'RE CORRECT IN **ONE** THING, OLD FRIEND--I **CAN'T** HELP HIM NOW--!
"THIS TIME, HE'LL HAVE TO SURVIVE ON HIS OWN--AND WHEN IT'S THROUGH, IF HE DECIDES HE **WANTS** ME--
"--IT MUST BE **HIS** MOVE, AND HIS **ALONE!**"
DARE-DEVIL!
PHIL, HE'S **HURT!**
CALL ME A **CAB,** PHIL.
HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO TAKE **CARE** OF HIM...
I'M SURE... MATT...WILL UNDERSTAND.
OKAY, KAREN. WHAT-EVER YOU **SAY.**

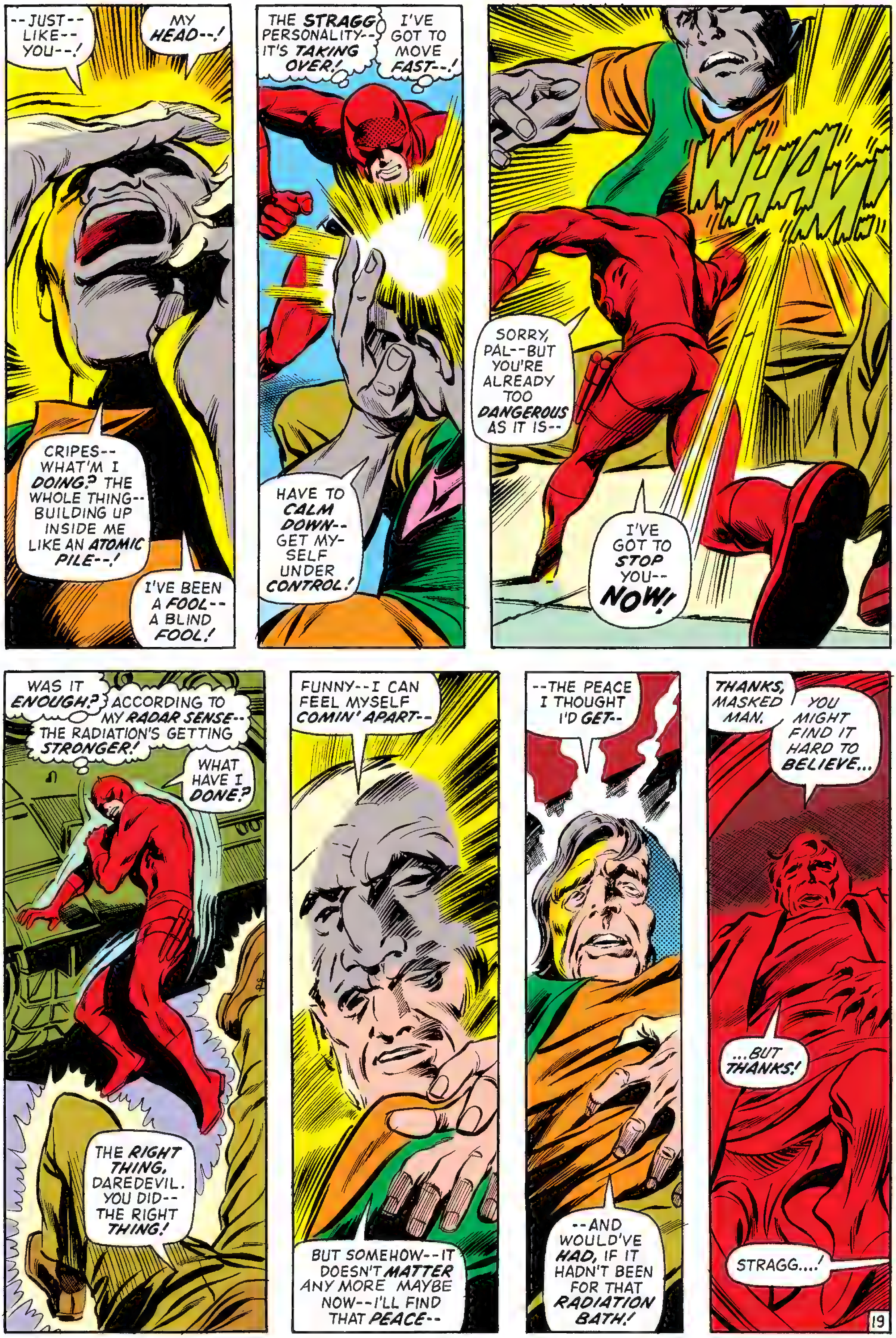

THEN, AS THE CAB DRIVES AWAY, IT LEAVES BEHIND A WEARY PHIL KINGSTON...
...A MAN HURT...YET STILL PAINFULLY, HOPELESSLY, IN LOVE.
AND THE GIRL HE LOVES, A FEW HOURS LATER?
SHE MOVES MECHANICALLY, AIDING A MAN SHE'S PROMISED TO MARRY...
...NO LONGER REALLY CERTAIN WHY!
THE PHONE. SHOULD I ANSWER IT...?
...TELL THEM MATT'S ASLEEP?
RRING!
MATT MURDOCK'S LINE--I'M SORRY, HE'S NOT--
OH. PHIL.
...HE WANTS TO SEE ME NOW? PHIL, I'M SORRY, I JUST CAN'T--!
...KAREN...?
PHIL...? YES, I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. I'LL BE THERE.
MATT, THAT WAS MY AGENT.
ONE OF MY PRODUCERS WANTS TO SEE ME. I ALMOST TOLD HIM NO, BUT WHEN YOU WOKE--
--WELL, YOU DON'T NEED ME ANY MORE.
SURE, HONEY. I'LL BE OKAY.
BUT, WHEN SHE'S LEFT...
FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN DONE BY A STEAMROLLER...
...BUT...I CAN'T STAY HERE...
...THE OX IS ON THE LOOSE, SOMEHOW... SOMEWHERE...
...AND LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP HIM!

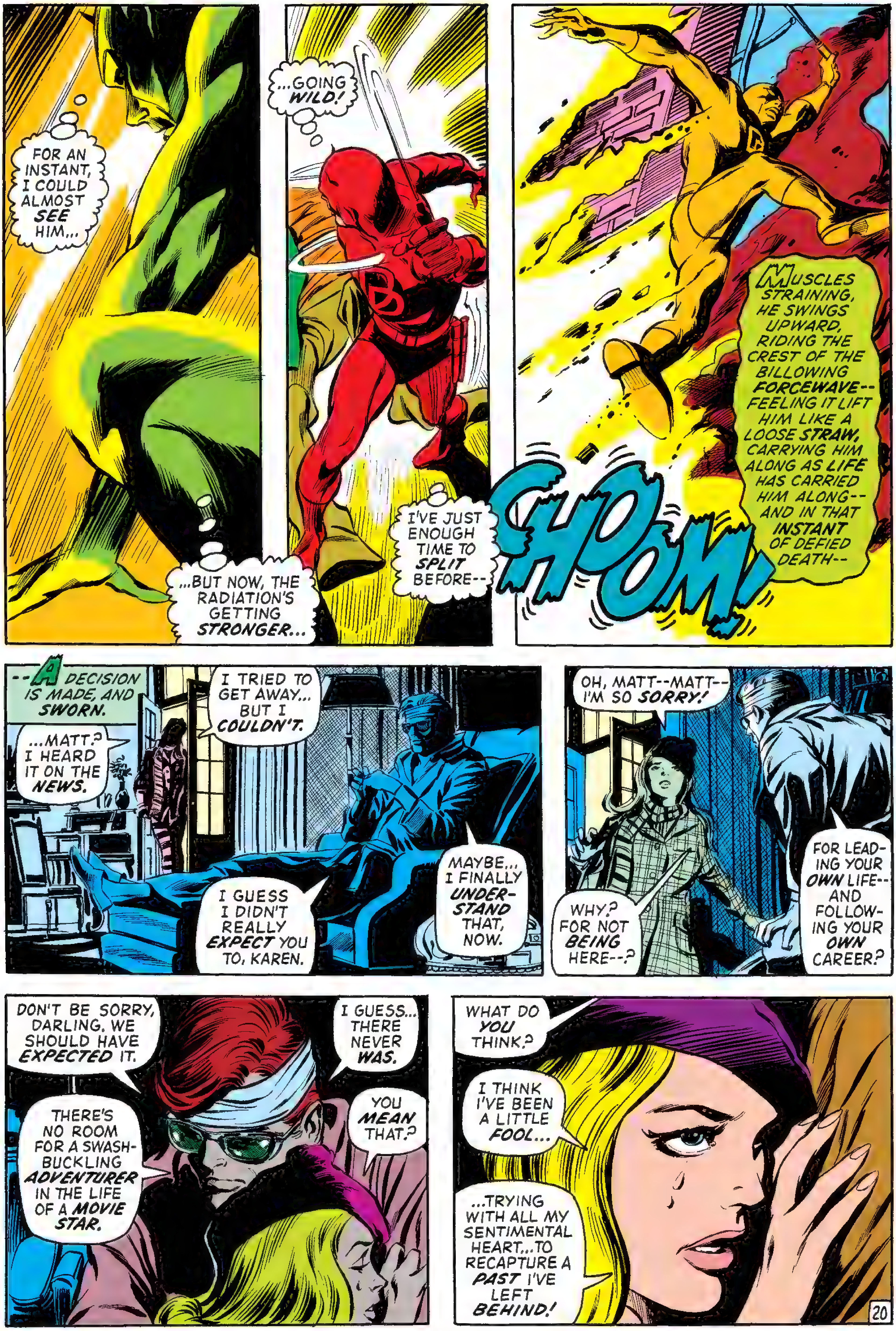

MORNING: THOSE EARLY HOURS WHEN MEN RUSH TO THE CITY, TO JOBS IN CROWDED OFFICES, TO THE ENDLESS **PRESS** OF TIRED HUMANITY--
MORNING: THOSE GRAY HOURS WHEN A FRIENDLY VOICE IS A **BLESSED** ONE, WHEN THE CHILL OF NIGHT HASN'T **YET** BEEN WARMED AWAY--
& ROLLS
--WHEN EVERY SOUND HAS ITS OWN COLD **ECHO**, DISTANT AND GENTLE, NEAR AND **HARSH**--
MORNING: THOSE SHORT, BRIEF HOURS WHEN CHILDREN LEAVE THEIR HOMES, PERHAPS TO **PAUSE** A MOMENT IN THE DEW-LADEN AIR--
--PERHAPS TO **BREATHE** AN INSTANT'S WORTH OF FREEDOM, BEFORE MOVING ON--
--ON TO THEIR CROWDED CLASSROOMS, AND THE ENDLESS, ENDLESS **CLAMOR**-- OF ANOTHER DAY'S **DAWN**.
THERE! I CAN HEAR PEOPLE SHOUTING-- THE WAIL OF A *SIREN*.
...AND SOMETHING *ELSE!* SOMEONE *MOVING* IN THAT *BUILDING*--!
--STRAINING, LIFTING SOMETHING *MASSIVE*, NOW *THROWING* IT--!
CRASH!
IT'S THE *OX*, ALL RIGHT-- NO ONE ELSE COULD BE THAT *STRONG!*

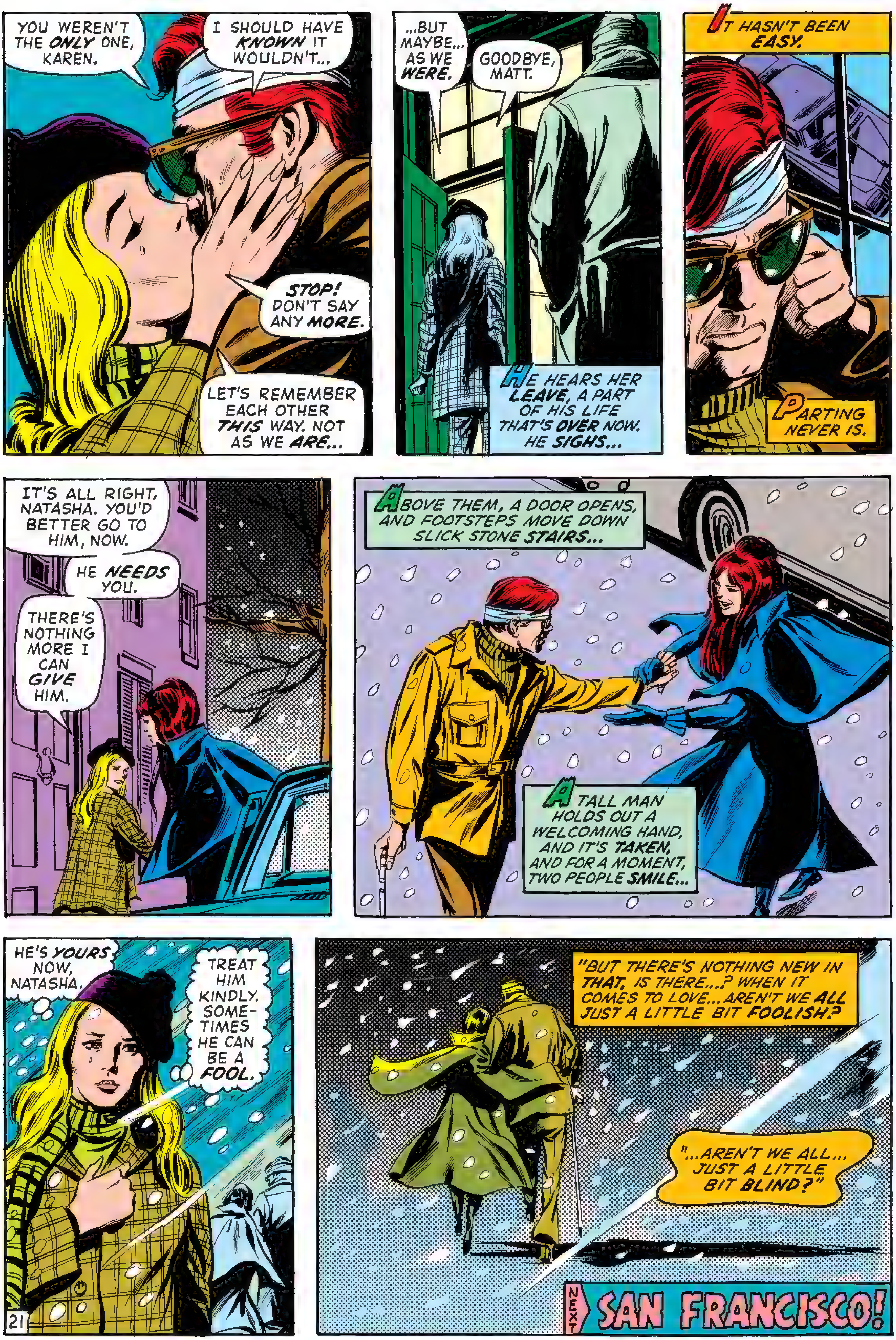

CORRIGAN--PETERS--! KEEP THOSE PEOPLE *BACK*, BLAST IT!
WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A BLASTED *MANIAC* IN THERE!
TAKE MY *WORD* FOR IT, SERGEANT--
CRIPES, LIEUTENANT--WHAT'F IT'S THE *HULK?* WHAT'LL WE DO *THEN?*
--*THAT'S NOT* THE *HULK!*
WHO THE--?
CALL ME *DAREDEVIL*, OFFICER. YOUR FRIENDLY *MAN WITHOUT FEAR!*
--AND HIS NAME'S--*THE OX!*
I'VE BEEN TRACKING OUR FRIEND ACROSS THE *CITY*--
NO PARKING
YEH? WELL, BUSTER--MAYBE YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE 'IM ON ALL BY YOUR *LONESOME*, RIGHT?
FORGET IT, HERO-MAN.
WHOEVER THAT IS HOLED UP IN THE *ARMORY*--
--HE'S GOT HIMSELF *CORNERED*, KNOW WHAT I *MEAN?*
WE DON'T NEED NO BLASTED COSTUMED *NUT* MAKING OUR JOB HERE DIFFICULT--*UNDERSTAND?*
PERFECTLY, OFFICER...
...BUT SUPPOSE I JUST TAKE IT UP WITH THE *JUDGE?*
HEY, WAITA-MINUTE--!
AH, CUT IT *OUT*, LIEUTENANT. IF HE WANTS TO BREAK HIS NECK, *LET* HIM.
ONE LESS GOON TO *WORRY* ABOUT, *I* SAY.

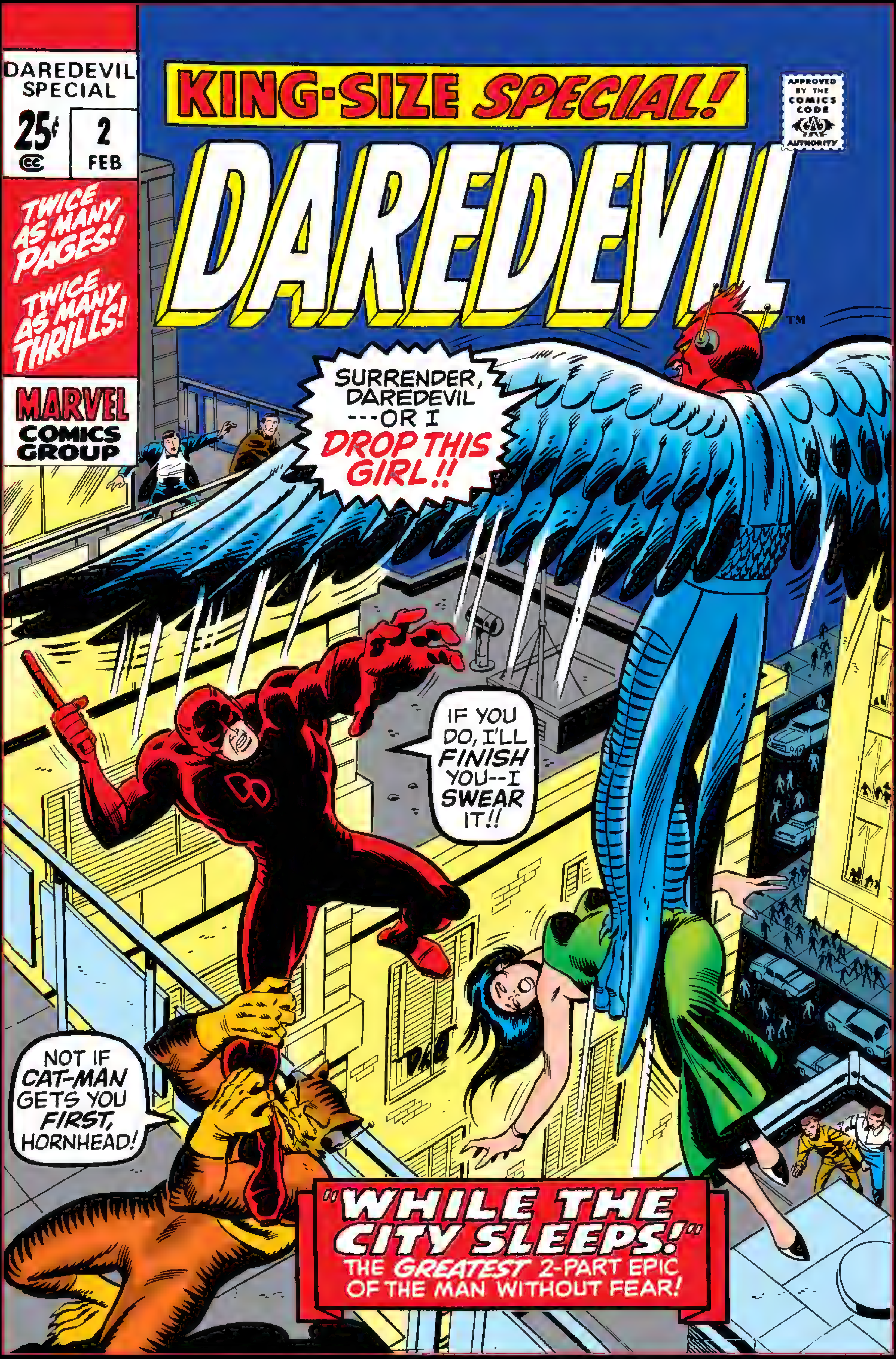

I CAN HEAR HIS **BREATHING** --LABORED, WHEEZING!
SOMEHOW, HE'S GROWN EVEN **LARGER** THAN HE WAS BEFORE --AND HIS BODY CAN'T **TAKE IT!**
WELL, FELLA-- LOOKS LIKE WE MEET **AGAIN!**
ANY LAST WORDS--LIKE ADMITTING YOU'RE AN **IMPOSTER?**
I AINT NO **FAKE,** LITTLE MAN!
IT WUZ **DOC STRAGG** WHAT DIED-- NOT **ME,** NOT THE **REAL** OX!
MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU **LEARNED** THAT, MASKED MAN!
HEY, REMIND ME TO GET **FRIGHTENED,** UGLY--
--YOU TALK A REAL **STORM!**
IT AINT JUST **TALK,** WISE GUY--THE OX DON'T MESS AROUND, **GET ME?**
OR DO I GOTTA MAKE IT CLEAR?
SO YOU'VE GOT **MUSCLES,** BIG MAN--THAT DOESN'T PROVE A **THING.**
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE TRYING TO **KID--** OR **WHY--**
--BUT THE OX IS **DEAD!** I WATCHED HIM DIE **MYSELF!**
GOT TO GET HIM **MAD!** I CAN SENSE HIS HEARTBEAT **QUICKENING--**
--AND IT'S MAKING HIM **GROW!** THE AVENGER CALLED **GOLIATH** USED TO **COLLAPSE** WHEN HE GOT TOO BIG--
--AND I'M BETTING MY LIFE THAT THIS GUY ISN'T ANY DIFFERENT!
I'M THE OX, BLAST IT-- THE OX!
YEAH, AND I'M **JOHN LINDSAY!**


IT'S WORKING...HE'S WELL OVER *FIFTEEN FEET!*
NOW IF I CAN JUST KEEP MYSELF FROM GETTING *KILLED* --MAYBE I'LL LEARN WHAT THIS NONSENSE IS ALL *ABOUT!*
STRAGG? SEEMS I'VE HEARD THE NAME *BEFORE--!*
WASN'T HE A *CYBERNETICIST*--CONVICTED OF KILLING HIS *WIFE?*
YEAH, BUT THAT WUZ *YEARS* AGO--BEFORE HE MET ME, AND TRICKED ME UNDER THAT CRAZY *HELMET* OF HIS!
WHEN I--WHEN I WENT BACK TO PRISON AS STRAGG--EVERYBODY THOUGHT I WUZ *HIM!*
--THEY OFFERED ME A *PAROLE*--IF I'D WORK ON SOME SORTA FLAKEY *EXPERIMENT!*
I TRIED, I REALLY *TRIED*--BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO *DO!*
NOW I GET IT!
SOMEHOW, THE OX'S SUBMERGED *IDENTITY* WAS RELEASED BY YOUR EXPOSURE TO *RADIATION--!*
THEN--MAYBE YOU *ARE* WHO YOU CLAIM TO BE AFTER *ALL!*
BETTER *BELIEVE* IT, HERO-MAN-- *UNNNH!*
GETTIN' HARD TO *MOVE*--CAN'T LIFT MY ARMS *FAST* ENOUGH!
BUT--I'M STILL *STRONG*--
--*I'M STILL ME!*
AHHH! NO ARGUMENTS *THERE,* CURLY!
SAK!
YEAH, YOU'RE *LAUGHIN'* AT ME--JUST LIKE YOU SMART GUYS *ALWAYS* DO!
STRAGG LAUGHED AT ME, TOO--TRICKED ME REAL *GOOD!*
BUT HE *PAID* FOR IT--HE GOT TOO *SMART* FOR HIS-SELF--
--JUST LIKE--JUST LIKE *YOU,* HORNHEAD--JUST--JUST--


--JUST--LIKE--YOU--!
MY HEAD--!
CRIPES--WHAT'M I DOING? THE WHOLE THING--BUILDING UP INSIDE ME LIKE AN ATOMIC PILE--!
I'VE BEEN A FOOL--A BLIND FOOL!
THE STRAGG PERSONALITY--IT'S TAKING OVER!
I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST--!
HAVE TO CALM DOWN--GET MYSELF UNDER CONTROL!
WHAM
SORRY, PAL--BUT YOU'RE ALREADY TOO DANGEROUS AS IT IS--
I'VE GOT TO STOP YOU--NOW!
WAS IT ENOUGH?
ACCORDING TO MY RADAR SENSE--THE RADIATION'S GETTING STRONGER!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
THE RIGHT THING, DAREDEVIL. YOU DID--THE RIGHT THING!
FUNNY--I CAN FEEL MYSELF COMIN' APART--
BUT SOMEHOW--IT DOESN'T MATTER ANY MORE MAYBE NOW--I'LL FIND THAT PEACE--
--THE PEACE I THOUGHT I'D GET--
--AND WOULD'VE HAD, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT RADIATION BATH!
THANKS, MASKED MAN.
YOU MIGHT FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE...
...BUT THANKS!
STRAGG...!


FOR AN INSTANT, I COULD ALMOST *SEE* HIM...
...BUT NOW, THE RADIATION'S GETTING *STRONGER...*
...GOING *WILD!*
I'VE JUST ENOUGH TIME TO *SPLIT* BEFORE--
MUSCLES STRAINING, HE SWINGS UPWARD, RIDING THE CREST OF THE BILLOWING *FORCEWAVE*-- FEELING IT LIFT HIM LIKE A LOOSE *STRAW*, CARRYING HIM ALONG AS *LIFE* HAS CARRIED HIM ALONG-- AND IN THAT *INSTANT* OF DEFIED DEATH--
CHOOM!
--A DECISION IS MADE, AND *SWORN.*
...MATT? I HEARD IT ON THE *NEWS.*
I TRIED TO GET AWAY... BUT I *COULDN'T.*
I GUESS I DIDN'T REALLY *EXPECT* YOU TO, KAREN.
MAYBE... I FINALLY *UNDERSTAND* THAT, NOW.
OH, MATT--MATT-- I'M SO *SORRY!*
WHY? FOR NOT *BEING* HERE--?
FOR LEADING YOUR *OWN* LIFE-- AND FOLLOWING YOUR *OWN* CAREER?
DON'T BE SORRY, DARLING. WE SHOULD HAVE *EXPECTED* IT.
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR A SWASHBUCKLING *ADVENTURER* IN THE LIFE OF A *MOVIE STAR.*
I GUESS... THERE NEVER *WAS.*
YOU *MEAN* THAT?
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?
I THINK I'VE BEEN A LITTLE *FOOL...*
...TRYING WITH ALL MY SENTIMENTAL HEART... TO RECAPTURE A *PAST* I'VE LEFT *BEHIND!*


YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE, KAREN.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WOULDN'T...
STOP! DON'T SAY ANY MORE.
LET'S REMEMBER EACH OTHER THIS WAY. NOT AS WE ARE...
...BUT MAYBE... AS WE WERE.
GOODBYE, MATT.
HE HEARS HER LEAVE, A PART OF HIS LIFE THAT'S OVER NOW. HE SIGHS...
IT HASN'T BEEN EASY.
PARTING NEVER IS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, NATASHA. YOU'D BETTER GO TO HIM, NOW.
HE NEEDS YOU.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN GIVE HIM.
ABOVE THEM, A DOOR OPENS, AND FOOTSTEPS MOVE DOWN SLICK STONE STAIRS...
A TALL MAN HOLDS OUT A WELCOMING HAND, AND IT'S TAKEN, AND FOR A MOMENT, TWO PEOPLE SMILE...
HE'S YOURS NOW, NATASHA.
TREAT HIM KINDLY. SOMETIMES HE CAN BE A FOOL.
"BUT THERE'S NOTHING NEW IN THAT, IS THERE...? WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE...AREN'T WE ALL JUST A LITTLE BIT FOOLISH?
"...AREN'T WE ALL... JUST A LITTLE BIT BLIND?"
NEXT SAN FRANCISCO!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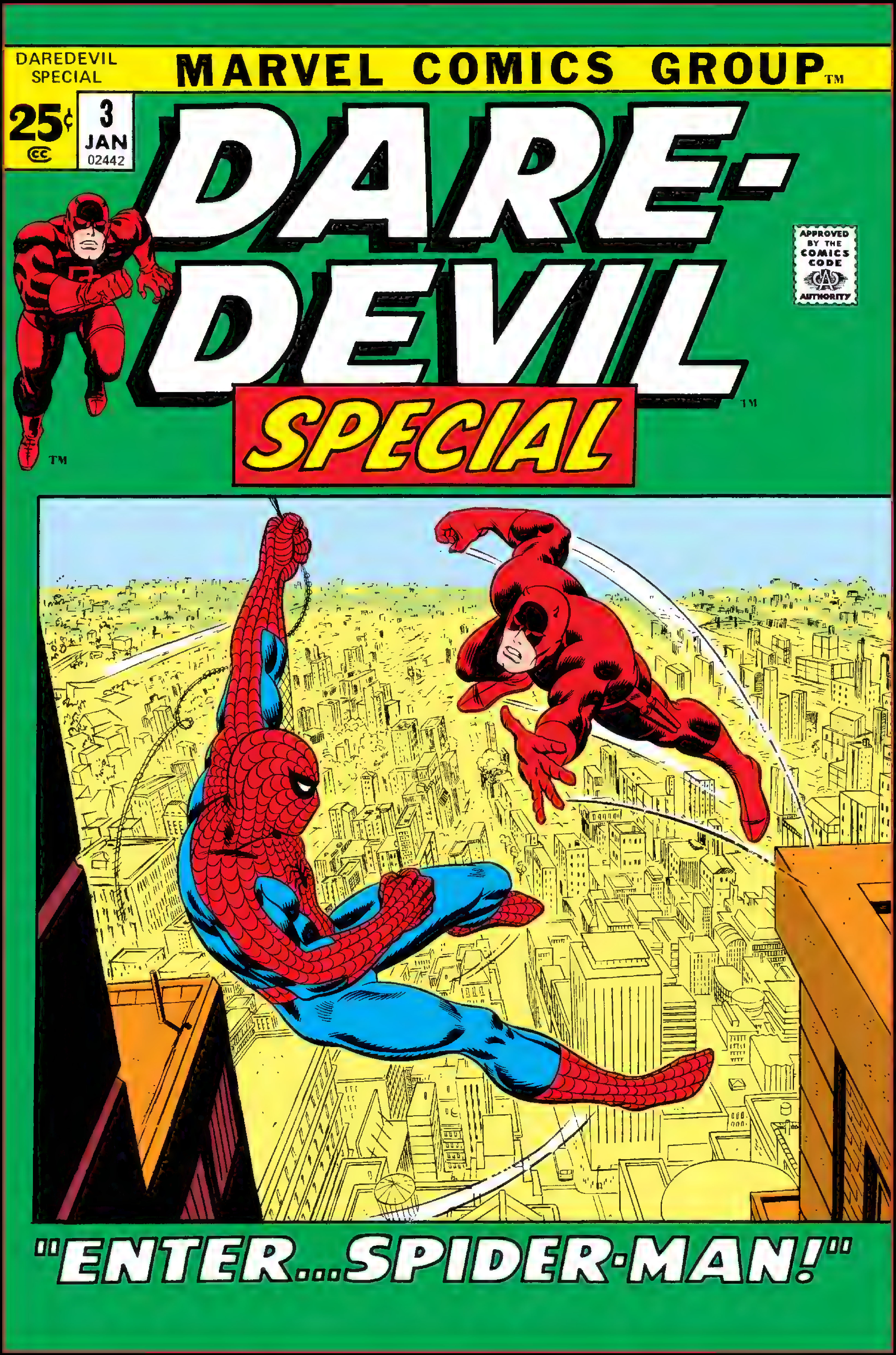
SURRENDER, DAREDEVIL ---OR I DROP THIS GIRL!!
IF YOU DO, I'LL FINISH YOU--I SWEAR IT!!
NOT IF CAT-MAN GETS YOU FIRST, HORNHEAD!
"WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS!"
THE GREATEST 2-PART EPIC OF THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

DAREDEVIL ANNUAL #2 (FEBRUARY 1971) COVER BY SAL BUSCEMA
REPRINTING *DAREDEVIL* #10-11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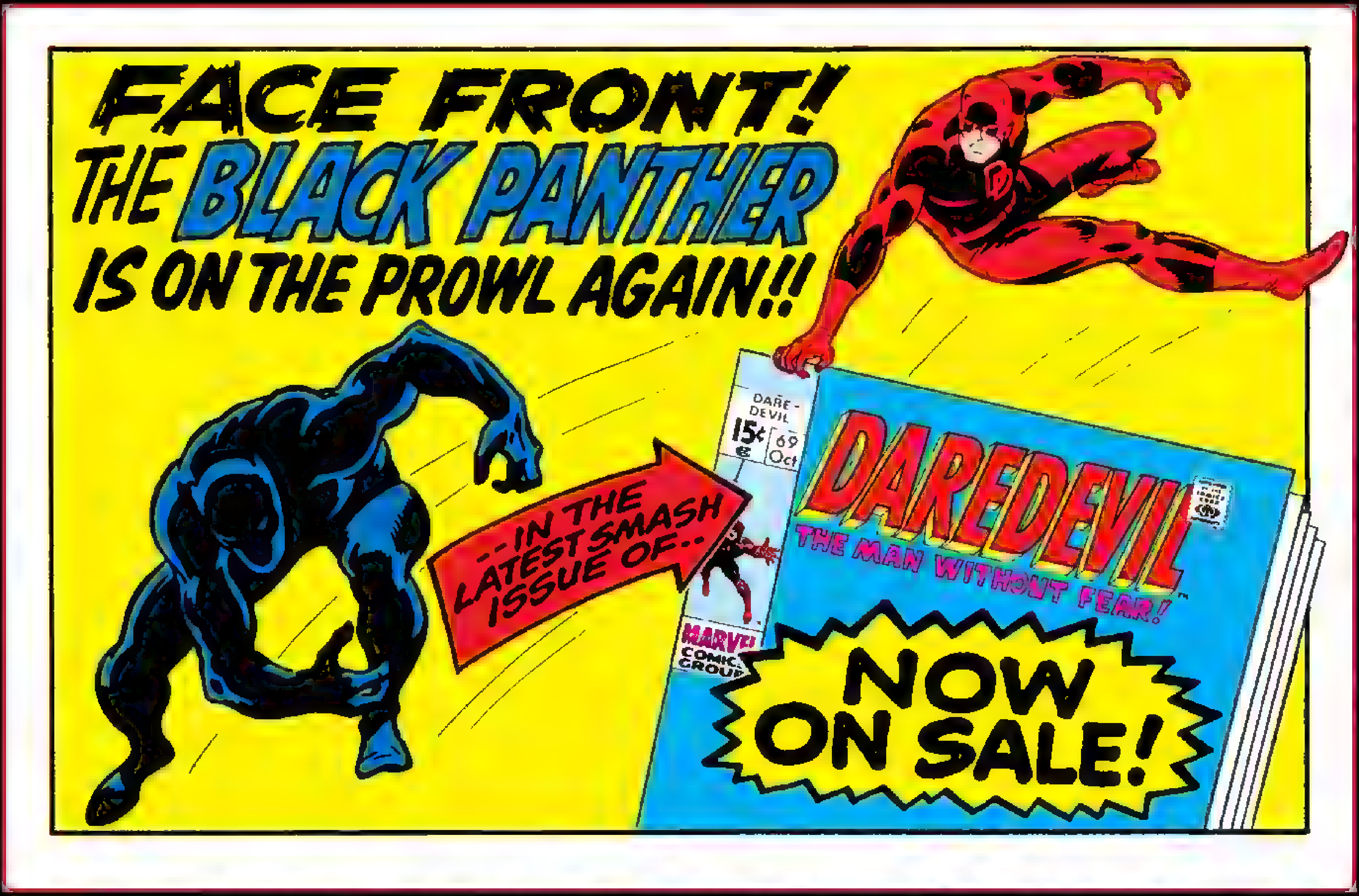
"ENTER...SPIDER-MAN!"

DAREDEVIL ANNUAL #3 (JANUARY 1972) COVER BY JOHN ROMITA & FRANK GIACOIA (FROM DAREDEVIL #16)
REPRINTING *DAREDEVIL* #16-17


FACE FRONT!
THE BLACK PANTHER IS ON THE PROWL AGAIN!!
--IN THE LATEST SMASH ISSUE OF--
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DAREDEVIL THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
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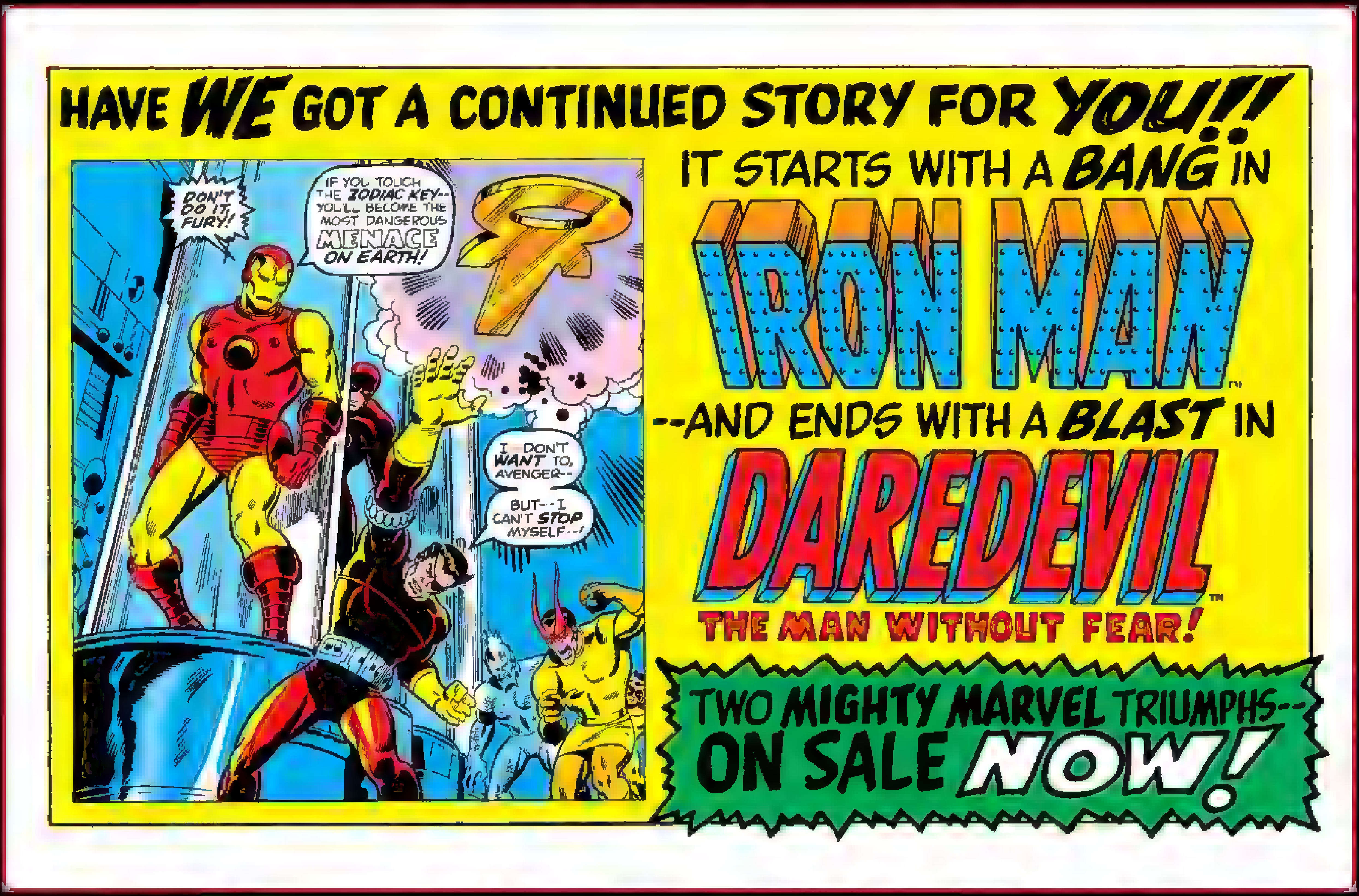
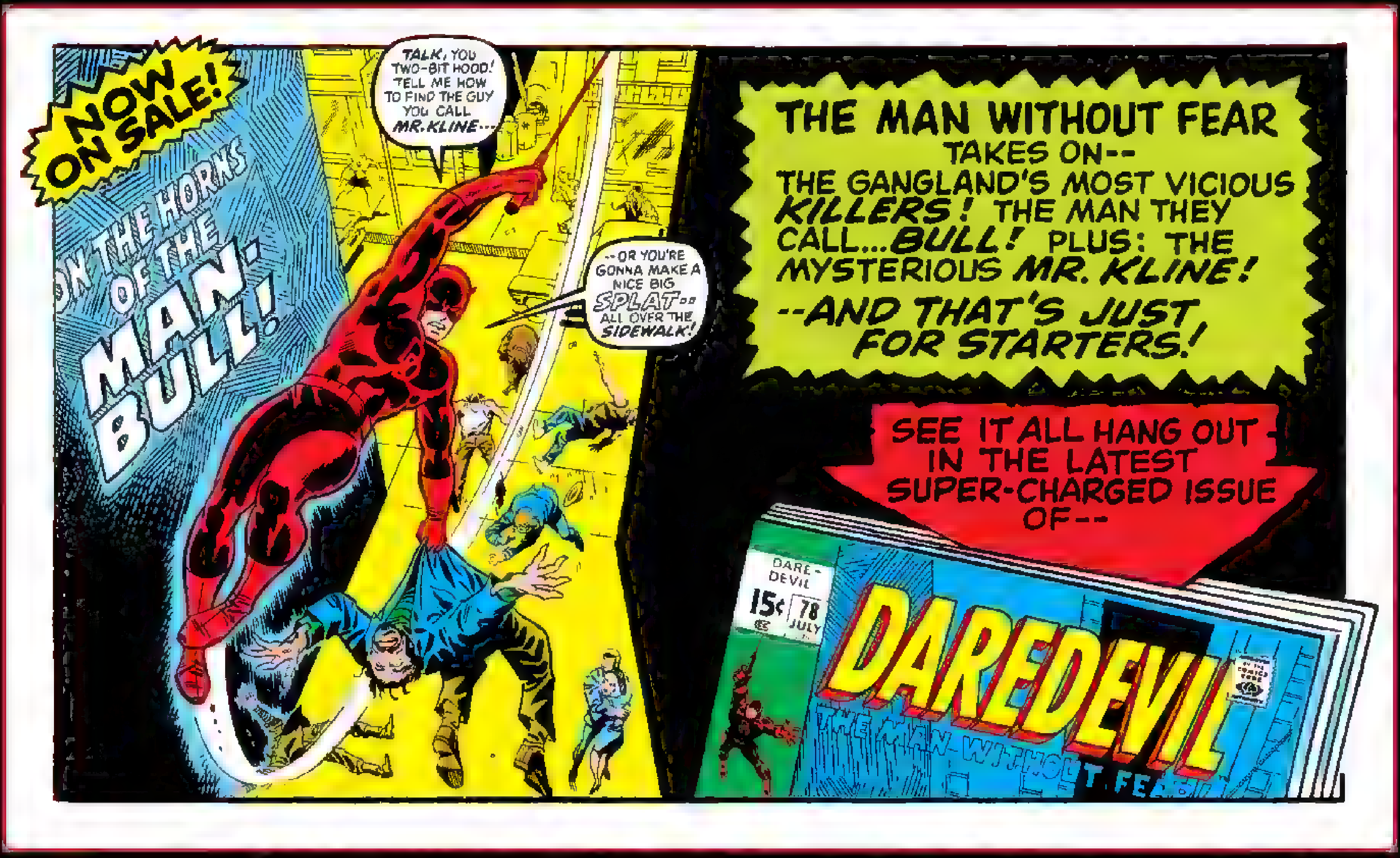
DAREDEVIL #69 HOUSE AD, FROM NOVEMBER 1970 TITLES


HAVE WE GOT A CONTINUED STORY FOR YOU!!
DON'T DO IT, FURY!
IF YOU TOUCH THE ZODIAC KEY-- YOU'LL BECOME THE MOST DANGEROUS MENACE ON EARTH!
I DON'T WANT TO, AVENGER--
BUT--I CAN'T STOP MYSELF--!
IT STARTS WITH A BANG IN
IRON MAN
--AND ENDS WITH A BLAST IN
DAREDEVIL THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
TWO MIGHTY MARVEL TRIUMPHS-- ON SALE NOW!

DAREDEVIL #73 HOUSE AD, FROM MARCH 1971 TITLES


NOW ON SALE!
ON THE HORNS OF THE MAN-BULL!
TALK, YOU TWO-BIT HOOD! TELL ME HOW TO FIND THE GUY YOU CALL MR. KLINE--
--OR YOU'RE GONNA MAKE A NICE BIG SPLAT-- ALL OVER THE SIDEWALK!
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR TAKES ON-- THE GANGLAND'S MOST VICIOUS KILLERS! THE MAN THEY CALL...BULL! PLUS: THE MYSTERIOUS MR. KLINE! --AND THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS!
SEE IT ALL HANG OUT IN THE LATEST SUPER-CHARGED ISSUE OF--
DARE-DEVIL 15¢ 78 JULY
DAREDEVIL THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR

DAREDEVIL #78 HOUSE AD, FROM AUGUST 1971 TITLES

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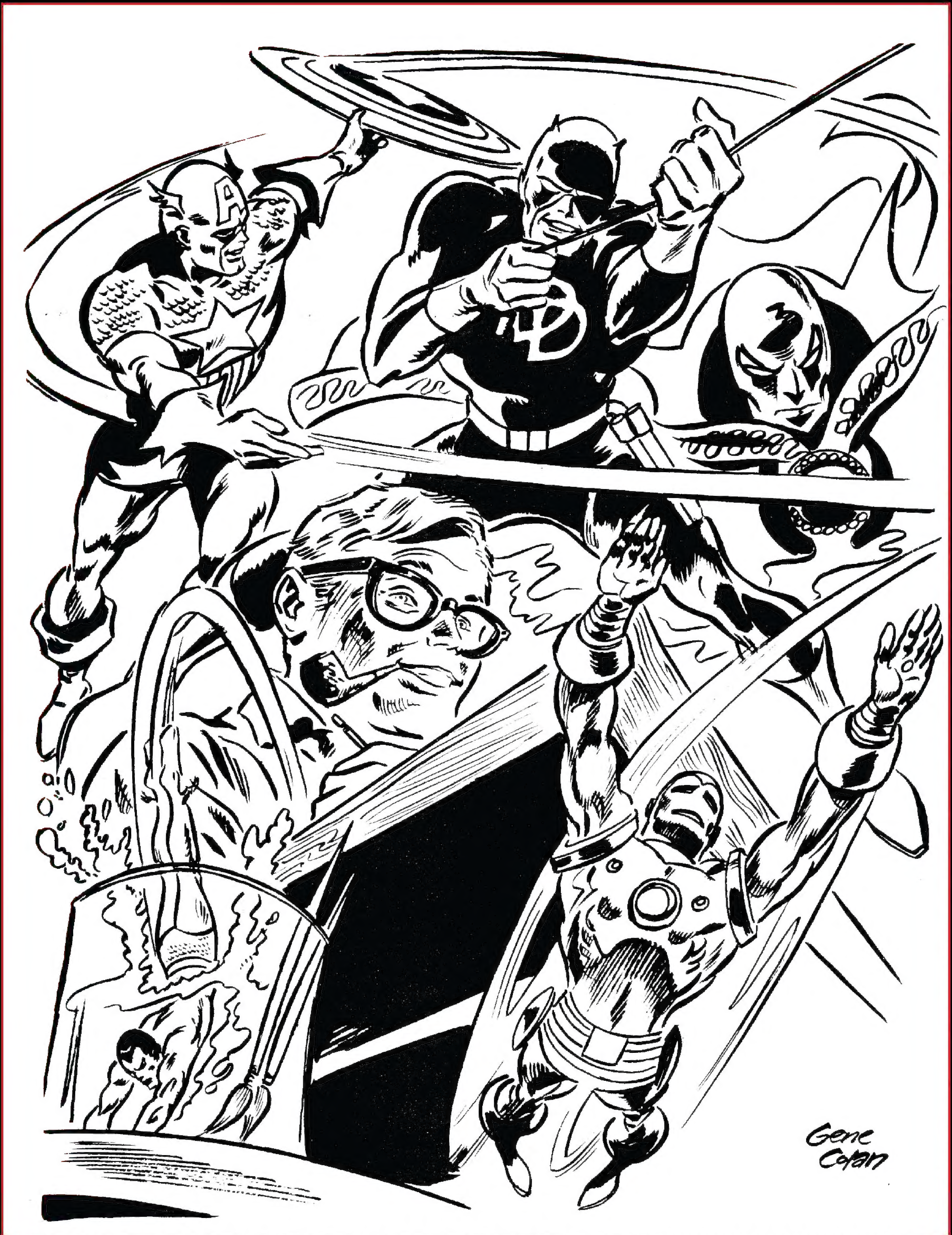
DAREDEVIL #67, UNUSED COVER PENCILS, BY GENE COLAN



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DAREDEVIL AND BLACK WIDOW'S PARTNERSHIP BEGINS!

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